

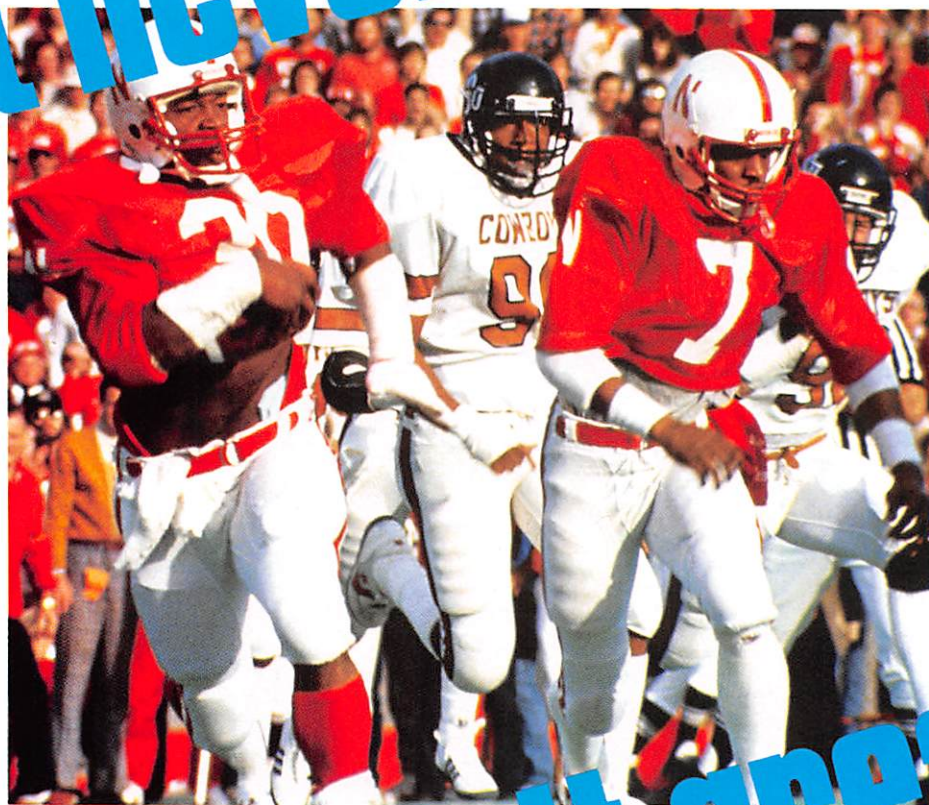
Huskers Illustrated

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For more information on current Boys Town programs, contact Father Robert Hupp, Executive Director.



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Huskies Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published twenty (20) times annually, weekly in September, October and November except twice weekly the first week in October and the first week in November and monthly in January, March, May, June, August and December by University Sports Publications, Inc., 7418 E. 42 Place, Tulsa, OK., 74145. Second class postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send form 3579 to the **Huskies Illustrated**, Circulation Office, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE., 68501.

Subscriptions — \$24.95 per year. Nebraska residents add 4 percent sales tax. For subscription information, write the **Huskies Illustrated**, Box 83222, Lincoln, NE., 68501. A percentage of the subscription proceeds will be donated to the University of Nebraska Athletic Department.

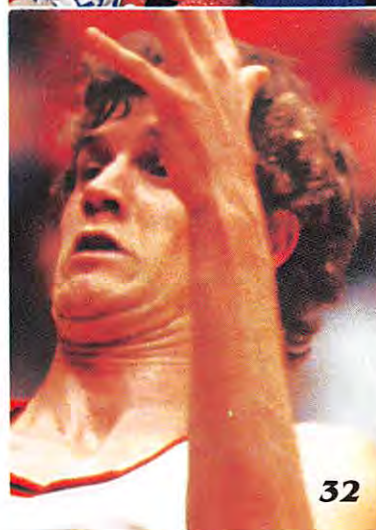
Permission to reprint material contained in this magazine must be obtained in writing from the Publisher.

The toll-free telephone number for editorial and advertising offices is 1-800-331-9193. Lithoed in Canada.

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When the Huskers take on Miami of Florida in the Orange Bowl Jan. 2, they'll control their own destiny in the national championship race.

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Husker tackle had to overcome a lot of big obstacles on his way to the top.

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When 19 NU seniors waved goodbye to their last Memorial Stadium sellout, emotions ran high.

Huskies Hoppen to the top? 32

The presence of Dave Hoppen and the momentum carried over from last season make Nebraska a definite title threat in the Big Eight basketball race.

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On the cover

Photographers wore out their shutters capturing Cornhusker touchdowns en route to a third straight Orange Bowl visit. Nebraska established NCAA records for scoring, total touchdowns and rushing touchdowns, plus extra-point kicks, before it even got to Oklahoma. Here, photographer Randy Hampton caught fullback Mark Schellen high-stepping in the Missouri end zone.

OWNERSHIP STATEMENT: Statement of the Ownership, Management, etc., of University Sports Publications, Inc., Oct. 1, 1983: Published twenty (20) times annually, weekly in September, October and November except twice weekly the first week in October and the first week in November and monthly in January, March, May, June, August at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Publisher: Mike Henry, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Editor: Tom Ash, Lincoln, Nebraska.
Stockholders holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock: Hastings Consulting Corp., Tulsa, Okla.; Charles Brackin, Owasso, Okla.; Mike Henry, Sand Springs, Okla. Known stockholders, mortgages and other security holders holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: Nichols Hills Bank, Oklahoma City.
The actual number of copies of single issues published nearest to filing date

above is: Printed — 20,392; paid circulation — 2,842; mail subscriptions — 13,292; total paid circulation — 16,134; free distribution, including samples, by mail, carriers or other means — 175; total distribution — 16,309; copies not distributed — 1,741; returns from news agents — 2,342; total above — 20,392.

The average number of copies of the publication during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is: Printed — 19,700; mail subscriptions — 13,674; paid circulation — 4,014; total paid circulation — 17,688; free distribution by mail, carrier or other means — 193; total distribution — 17,881; copies not distributed — 869; returns from news agents — 950; total above — 19,700.

I certify that the above statements made by me are correct and complete.
Mike Henry, Publisher.

Letters



Dear Big Red Mailbag:

The article, "Play It Again, Huskers: Nebraska 35, Oklahoma 31" in your October issue by Randy York, is the finest football article that I have seen anywhere. I hope that you will pick out other Nebraska games and present them in the same format.

The play-by-play description is nearly as good as seeing the game on TV or videotape. In your mind's eye, you can see the game as it surges up and down the field.

You have an excellent publication, and it's a Godsend to us Nebraska football nuts who are out of radio and TV range of the Nebraska games. I was intrigued by the letter of the Oregon fan who got the radio broadcast by telephone. I may have to try that myself.

Delno Stageman
Schenectady, N.Y.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

In the November issue, you did a super article on walkons. After reading that article I finally understood how a walkon could make it on the team.

The coaches at Nebraska do a remarkable job on the players. I think it is incredible that a coach can make a bad player into a great player. That's probably why we're No. 1.

Dwayne Schumacher
St. Louis Park, Minn

•Nebraska's coaches would prefer to think they help turn good players into great players — ED.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

Here I am in the middle of "Buckeye Country." Big Deal!

The four years I have lived here just haven't replaced or measured up to the four years I spent becoming addicted to Big Red Mania during the late '70s.

Football spirit here is more subdued and diluted than in Lincoln, and the fans have a tendency to sit on their hands.

Husker sellouts continue to build. The Buckeyes suffered three early-season losses in 1982 and lost their sellout string in their 88,000-seat stadium. Can you imagine what Husker fans would do for 12,000 additional seats?

Nebraska fans can be proud of their program and fan loyalty — it is second to no other program in the country.

Enclosed is my subscription. I look forward to it to feed my addiction to Big Red and stir memories of the best-kept secret west of the Mississippi River — namely, Lincoln, Neb., "Home of the Good Life."

Len Olson
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the articles on two

of the Huskers from the thirties. In the article on Bob Mehring, I noted two discrepancies. The quarterbacks were Thurston Phelps, John Howell and Harris Andrews. Bill Callihan, Bill Andreson and Sam Francis were fullbacks.

Although the picture is of the 1936 team, the above-mentioned individuals were also on the 1937 team. Many of the greats from almost 50 years ago are pictured here.

Andy Uram was the speedster from Minnesota that beat the Huskers in 1936.

Congratulations on a great magazine.
Bob Lien
Lincoln, Neb.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

In light of Nebraska's continuing destruction of their opponents, I am proposing a new name for your magazine — Huskers Illustrious.

Big Red Fever is alive and well down here in Ag-gieland.

Wes Hand
College Station, Tex.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I wonder if there is a misprint on page 48 of the October issue in the lineups for the 1971 Nebraska-Oklahoma game. At right defensive end for Nebraska, behind Willie Harper, did you mean to print Manstedt instead of Hanstedt?

I believe Steve Manstedt, from my hometown of Wahoo, Neb., was Willie's backup.

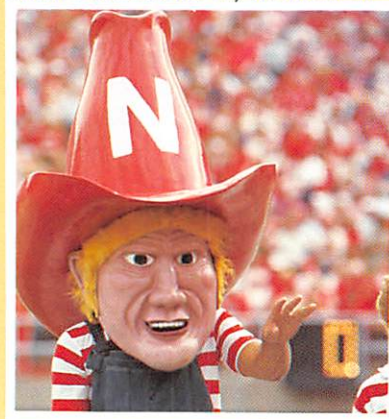
Greg Haessler
Urbandale, Iowa

•Of course, you are right. Even in Steve's sophomore season of 1971, we knew how to spell his name. By the time he was an All-Big Eight end as a senior, we had had plenty of practice. We'll blame that one on the electronic gremlins — ED.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

In reading the article, "Legacy of Great Tight Ends" in the September issue (a good composition), I noted at the end of the piece you listed NU's honored ends.

On seeing this list I was amused, baffled and slightly chagrined. May I ask what was your criteria for selection? I ask because my record as an "old



If you have questions or comments, you may write **Big Red Mailbag, Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501.**

Husker" appears to have been lost, destroyed or overlooked.

Bernie Scherer
Sun City, Ariz.
NU Class of '36

•The omission of Bernie was clearly an oversight. Bernie Scherer's place in Husker ends lore is securely intact.

He was one of only two sophomore lettermen in 1933, a unanimous All-Big Six selection the next two years, honorable mention All-American as a junior and All-American as a senior. He was the first player chosen for the East-West Shrine game and was named the game's outstanding defensive player.

He played three years for the Green Bay Packers, including a championship in 1936 and runner-up finishes the next two years. He was a co-captain and offensive signal-caller as an end in 1939 with the Pittsburgh Steelers — ED.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I am getting a little nauseated reading the propaganda in the Nebraska newspapers concerning the greatest college football team in history — the 1983 Cornhuskers vs. the 1971 Cornhuskers.

To settle this question, I think all you will need to do is to check back and you will find the only time a president of the United States made a special trip to award a plaque to the nation's best football team and to the team this award was presented should answer the above question once and for all.

Certainly, Nebraska should win all of its games by at least 75 points because of the weak teams on the schedule. This is far different from the days of D.X. Bible and Al Lewandowski. These athletic directors scheduled the perennial powers each and every year, win or lose. In this time, it seems they schedule the weakest teams possible.

In other words, I am like many others who do not believe they are the No. 1 team in the country.

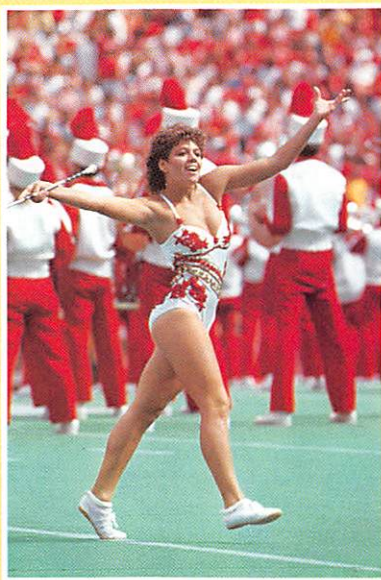
Mark Floyd
Clifton, Tex.

•Sorry, Mark, but your argument doesn't settle any 1971 vs. 1983 squabbles. President Nixon visited Lincoln to present the plaque to Coach Bob Devaney and Captains Jerry Murtaugh and Dan Schneiss at the conclusion of the national championship season of 1970 — ED.

Dear Big Red Mailbag:

I always read other people's write-ins about the Huskers and have often thought about writing in myself to tell about my feeling toward the Big Red, but words cannot express my true love for the Huskers.

It's in my blood, but more important, it's in my heart.



Thank you, Nebraska, for that special feeling I have when I hear "There's No Place Like Nebraska." And for how I feel when I see you in action.

Oh, yes, thanks for beating Penn State so well. Out here in Big Blue country, I'm lost, but Huskers Illustrated keeps me in touch with the "Good Life."

Danny Koleski
Fairdale, KY

Jessica Ayo Age 5



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Husker Hostesses: Front row, from left, Tamara Kerr, Jane Porter, Mari Umberger, Chris McCreary, Mary Lyn Fattig, Susie Hendrix, Rosalind Moore, Kathie Techmeier, Nancy Rogic. Back row, from left, Kim Yeutter, Julie Meusburger, Kim Rodeen, Mary Reeder, Pam Gallup, Julie Roseberry, Lisa Bohl, Jan Rocke, Kristi Burnside, Cathy Hansen, Dee Rath and Dawn Brown.

Inside Husker sports

players' days

November 5, 1983 was a great day for Turner Gill. And Dave Ridder. And Tim Brungardt. And Mark Schellen.

The Cornhusker football players had done their jobs impressively in a 72-29 pasting of Iowa State that afternoon. Ridder, Brungardt and Schellen were guests of honor that evening at receptions in Lincoln held by residents of their hometowns — West Point, Norfolk and Waterloo, respectively. Gill took his bows at a "Turner Gill Day" dinner at a restaurant in North Omaha.

For Tom Osborne, it was the longest day. Following his primary mission, he attended the festivities for

Dave Ridder Day, Tim Brungardt Day and Mark Schellen Day. Then he and Nancy and Backfield Coach Frank Solich and Pam and Receivers Coach Gene Huey drove to Omaha to honor their senior quarterback.

Gill's parents, Turner and Hattie, and other families drove up from Fort Worth, Tex. for the activities. Teammates Mike Rozier, Irving Fryar and Neil Harris were there, too. Mayor Mike Boyle presented the honoree with a key to the city and read a proclamation declaring Turner Gill Day in the city, citing him for "great athletic achievements and also for being a great human being."

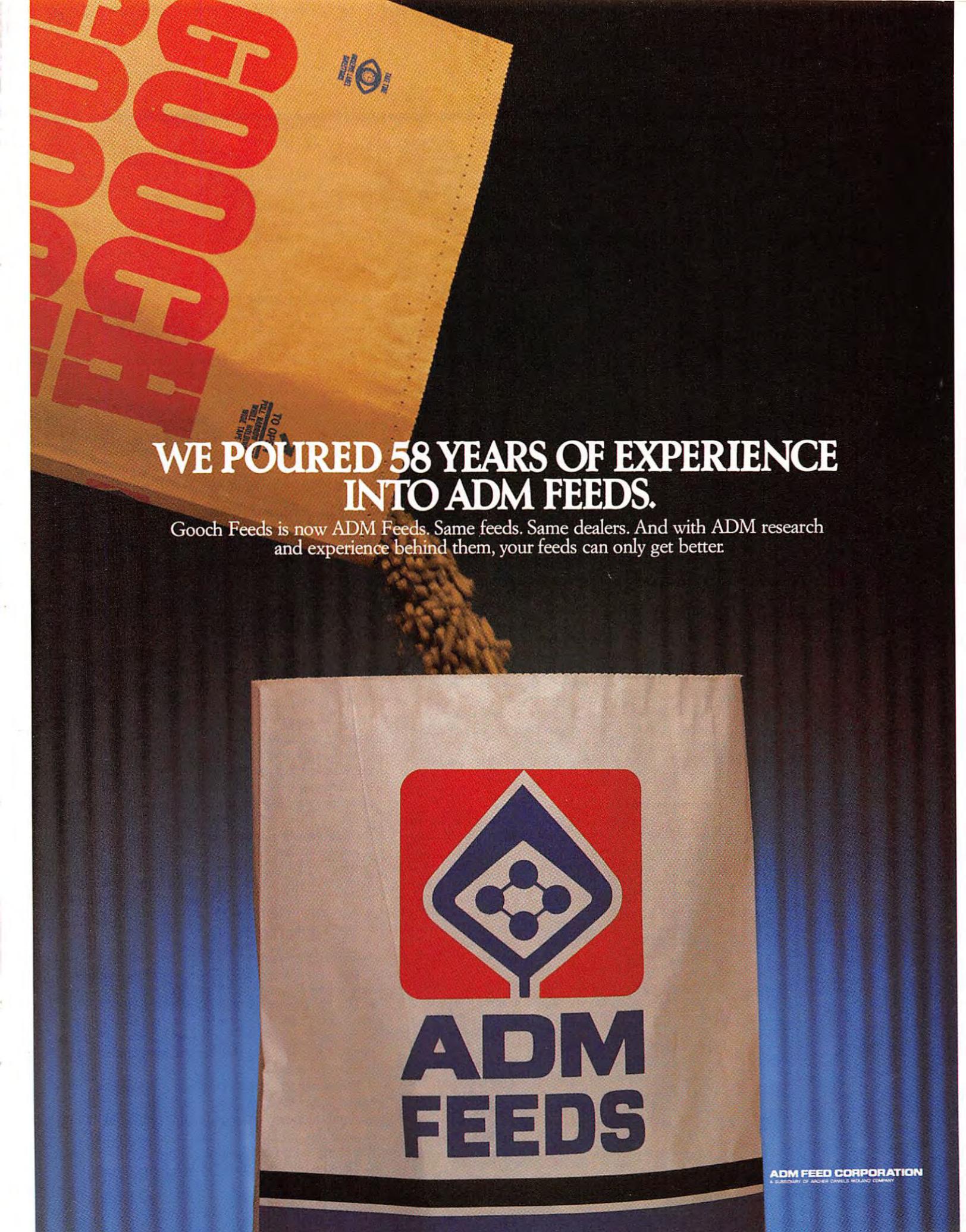
City Council President Bernie Simon and Gov. Bob Kerrey's legal counsel Gene Crump contributed to the salute.

Said Turner: "I've been through some ups and downs. I got tons of letters when I was injured. I really appreciate all the support. The whole state helped me out. A lot of people don't know me as a person. I want to be known as a good person."

It was all very nice. So were the other three receptions. But, somewhere, there has to be a limit. The recent escalation of "Days" for Husker seniors "has gotten to be a problem," Osborne said. The coaches have tried to make several receptions after every home game. "We'd like to change that," Osborne said.

"Right after the games, that can really be burdensome to the coaches. So many times, there are four or five, and I can hardly get to them all. It's all I do after the games any more to go to those, plus the people who put them on ask for 50 to 500 tickets, which are almost impossible to get. Plus they want some advertising.

"So what we're going to do is recommend next



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Gill receives the "Turner Gill Day" proclamation from Mayor Boyle.

year that those people who want to honor the seniors...if North Platte wants to honor somebody that they do it in North Platte after the season.

"If you go to one player's day, you've got to go to everyone else's. It's gotten to the point where you have to be a little bit rude. People want to visit and get autographs, but you have to get on to the next one," Osborne said.

"Plus, some players don't have a 'day,' and they feel a little left out," he said.

Huskies win in academics, too

Take another bow, Ursula Walsh and the academic counseling staff. Seven Huskers were named to the Big Eight Academic all-conference team.

They are: center Mark Traynowicz, 2.86 GPA, engineering; center Brad Muehling, 3.77, architecture; quarterback Craig Sundberg, 3.19, business administration; defensive end Scott Strasburger, 3.77, pre-medicine; defensive end Billy Weber, 3.53, business administration; defensive tackle Rob Stuckey, 3.77, business administration; and, cornerback Todd Fisher, 3.54, pre-medicine.

Honorably mentioned were fullback Scott Porter, 3.52, business administration, and middle guard Mike Tranmer, 3.77, agriculture.

cross country champs

Blink, blink. What's this? Nebraska finished *second* in the Big Eight cross country championships. The last time the Husker hill-and-dalers finished that high was in 1969. They were seventh the last two years and eighth the three before that.

"Cross country has never been taken too seriously around here," said Jay Dirksen, the first-year coach.

That's changed.

Wally Duffy, a Shenandoah, Iowa native who transferred from Illinois, finished fourth in the conference meet at Kansas and later finished third in the district run to qualify for the nationals.

In trailing only Iowa State in the conference meet, other Husker finishers were Kurt Russell, 9th, Tom Hoffman, 16th, Mark Gokie, 23rd, Gerard O'Callahan, 38th and Dave Cudmore, 44th.

volleyball cleaned up again

Terry Pettit's volleyball team cleaned up again, breezing unbeaten to an eighth consecutive Big Eight championship.

The conference coaches selected junior Cathy Noth of Bettendorf, Iowa and senior Erin Dean of Kansas City, Mo. to the All-Big Eight team for the third time and sophomore Sharon Kramer of Clinton, Iowa for the first time.

Freshman Karen Dahlgren of Bertrand, Neb. and junior Mary Busse of Marshall, Minn. were named to the second team, and Dahlgren, with a 3.6 GPA in business, made the Big Eight's all-academic team.

congratulations abound

Kudos, too, to first-year softball coach Wayne Daigle for turning around a team that finished 17-18 last year and building a school-record 23-5 mark in the fall campaign. "I never expected at the beginning of the season taht we'd do so well. With a new coach, a new program and what the girls went through last year, I really didn't know what to expect." Daigle said.

The resurgence came behind the pitching of Sandy Wolterman and bats of Wendy Turner (.350), Denise Day-Decker (.348) and Stacy Sunny (.310).

...Also to Francis Allen for his selection as the United States Gymnastics Federation Coach of the Year after winning five straight national championships...new baseball captains: pitcher Jeff Anderson, infielder Kurt Eubanks and first baseman Mike Duncan...Duncan, a transfer from College of Southern Idaho, where he hit .488, for qualifying for the U.S. Olympic team tryout camp...

Hall of Famer passes on

Farewell to Lawrence Ely, Cornhusker All-American center in 1932, and a Nebraska Football Hall of Famer, who passed away in Anchorage, Alaska. He was instrumental in founding and setting up Nebraska football radio broadcasts for the Alaskan Nebraskans booster organization....

few survive draft

Don't feel sorry for John Sanders and his Cornhusker baseball team.

The Huskers set a Big Eight record by going 26-0 last season before fading to 44-15. That team led the nation with nine players drafted by pro clubs. Seven signed. Only Jeff Anderson is back from among the top five pitchers.

Underclassmen Anthony Kelley, Bob Sebra and Matt Butcher departed. There was enthusiasm when three top prep pitchers and an outfielder signed national letters of intent and then disappointment when they signed professional contracts.

"Those are tough things to overcome. We won



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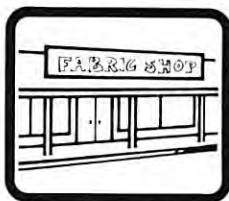
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When it reigns...One more time for champs, from left, Erin Dean, Annie Adamczak, Sharon Kramer, Pettit, Karen Dahlgren, Julie Hermann and Cathy Noth.

the recruiting battles against the top teams in the country and then lost them to professional teams," Sanders said.

But after 25 fall games, most of them intrasquad, Sanders said, "There are a lot of positives, I'm jacked up. I love the situation, turning it around. People think we were devastated. Our players are dedicated to having an outstanding year, and our coaches don't think any differently."

To prove he isn't shying away from the challenge, Sanders has lined up the top teams on the West Coast and Hawaii as opponents this fall after playing a softer early schedule last year.

"We have a lot of character and not a lot of characters on this team. One thing they're not going to do is panic. Last year, there were some areas, like front-line pitching, where we thought we would be strong, and it didn't materialize. This year, we're more stable."

"Our pitching staff is committed to overachieving, and we've seen the results. One measurement is that the average velocity is better than last year."

"One example is Phil Harrison, a left-handed freshman from Glendora, Calif. His velocity is better than anybody we had last year. And his ratio was five strikeouts to one walk this fall," Sanders said.

Billy McGuire, the regular catcher as a freshman last year, turned pitcher, "and he also had better velocity than anybody last year," he said.

Anderson, who has won 22 games in the last three years, will be the mainstay, with veterans Jeff Koenigsman, Chris Knust, Mark Honnor and Mike Dobbs battling for starting jobs.

"We need more than anything to maximize our pitching. There's tremendous competition. These guys are taking it as a challenge. It's not like we don't have the talent."

"At this stage, it's a very happy family," Sanders said....

Looschen defects, defector lost

Setbacks, what setbacks? Cal Bentz's men's swimming team has won four straight Big Eight championships, but Cliff Looschen, who led the way with six individual titles in two seasons, pulled out during the summer and transferred to Indiana.

Bentz figured Looschen wouldn't be missed much when he learned that he had a good chance to land a world class butterflyer, who had defected from Czechoslovakia in January. But that, apparently, has fallen through.

Vlastmil Cerny, a 20-year-old Czech, had defected to West Germany and made his way to Canada, where he has applied for citizenship and beaten everybody in that country. "I'm sure he's among the top 25 in the world," Bentz said.

"His coach contacted us. We had more than a reasonable shot at him. They didn't think there was much of a chance of his getting citizenship in time for the Olympics but when they found out he had talent, they decided to speed up the process. At least that's what seemed to happen."

"So he's going to stay in Canada, and there's a good chance he'll be competing in the Olympics for Canada. At this point, it's a dead issue until that's over," he said.

Still, Bentz said, "We're a better team today than we were at this time last year. The bad thing was that when Cliff left in the summer, we couldn't recruit replacements. The same thing happened when Andes Rutqvist (of Sweden) left a couple of years ago when he had two years left, but our team was stronger the next year."

"We feel like we'll have a much stronger team. We operate as a unit better than any team we've had. We have, for whatever reasons, a much closer-knit team than ever before. We feel that we're covering our events better and have more depth."

"The way I look at it is, one was simply a recruit who didn't sign, and the other is one who is simply

"I'm sure there will be references next year to Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar on the football team. People will want to know how they are going to do without them. They're going to continue to work and have their best possible team.

"It would be nice to have more All-Americans, but we don't. But we're a step ahead of last year, and there's no better way to describe it." Bentz said.

The Husker swimmers and divers last season had 10 national qualifiers and breaststrokers Tim Brinner and Rick Gilbertson, sprinter Kevin Weires, freestyle backstroke Dave Hecker and diver Reynaldo Castro are back...

Husker Hostesses

Their services go largely unrewarded, but 21 Cornhusker co-eds play an integral role in football recruiting.

They are the volunteer Husker Hostesses who greet and accompany recruits and their families on game-day visits to the campus and on "official" weekend visits after the season.

"We started this program about six years ago," said Recruiting Coordinator Steve Pederson, who oversees the operation. "It's amazing how hard these girls work on these weekends, especially on the official visits, making sure the athletes get to all their meetings. I'm sure they have other things to do on those weekends.

"They really fill a void in recruiting. The recruit talks to all the coaches and players, and he wants to talk to a general student. He wants to know where's the closest movie theatre, where he can get a hamburger on Saturday night, those things.

"This is really a great group of young ladies. They really help on game days because the coaches are with the team getting ready for the game. When we take them on a tour of the facilities, we may have a group of 25 to 30 athletes.

"It gives the player a different perspective about his visit. And the hostesses are a lot more enjoyable to look at than a bunch of coaches," Pederson said.

7 Huskers on All-Big Eight

To the surprise of no one, the 1983 Nebraska Cornhuskers dominated the Associated Press' All-Big Eight football team with seven selections to the first team.

Quarterback Turner Gill was named to the team for the third straight year. He was joined on offense by Heisman favorite Mike Rozier at running back, Irving Fryar at wide receiver and offensive linemen Dean Steinkuhler and Scott Raridon.

On the first-team defense were linebacker Mike Knox and safety Brett Clark — both juniors. •

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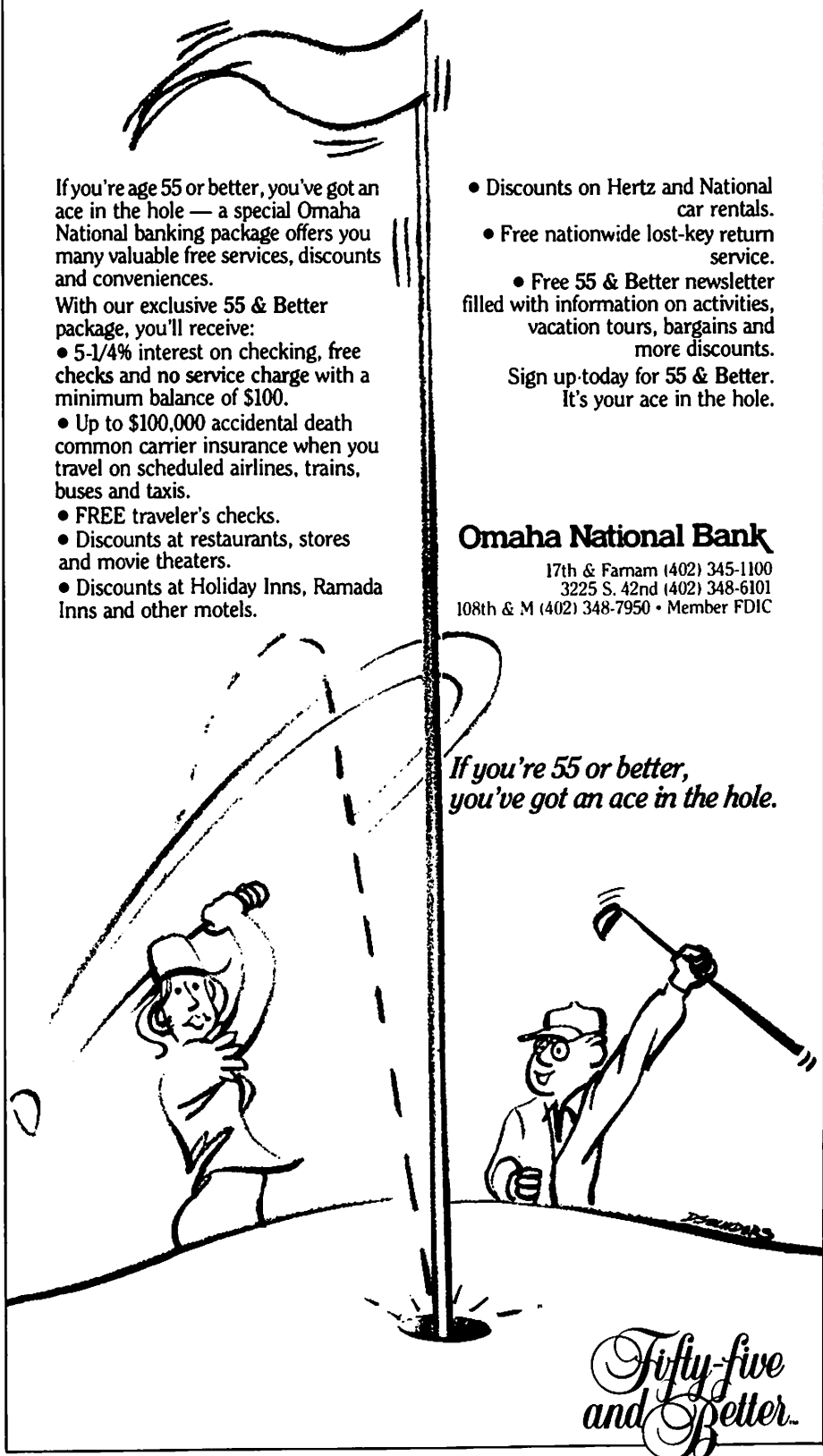
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Freshman Kosar passed George Mira in the record book.

One Away From Perfection For Orange Bowl Huskers

Tom's first unbeaten regular season ended in the rain in Norman; Now it's Hurricane time and another go at 13-0.

Cletus Fischer walked out of the Orange Bowl the night of Jan. 1, 1972 with a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment. It was several years later before he could fully appreciate the enormity of the experience.

The University of Nebraska had just become the first team in collegiate football history to ride a perfect 13-game slate to a national championship, polishing off Alabama, 38-6.

"To go undefeated and win the national championship was a great feeling, but we had kind of expected it. It's grown over the years," Fischer said.

"I don't suppose I'd ever dreamed of being part of a national championship team. The first time, I don't think anybody ever talked about it. It just happened," he said.

The first time was during the 1970 season, when a tie with Southern Cal was the only blot in a 12-game season. The earlier bowls broke right, and the Cornhuskers advanced

to the top rung by nipping Louisiana State in the Orange Bowl.

The second one, when the 1971 team became the first group of Huskers to go undefeated since 1915, was almost an anti-climax. Many felt that the 35-31 thriller at Oklahoma settled the national title, and the Sooners and Colorado, which finished two-three in the national polls that year, were stiffer challenges than Alabama.

"That second year, we had such good people...but to go undefeated, you have to be so damn lucky. You have to have some things besides a good football team," Fischer said.

Cletus Fischer is the patriarch of the Nebraska football staff. He was a Husker halfback four years and has logged 24 years of service at Nebraska under head coaches Bill Jennings, Bob Devaney and Tom Osborne. He has seen a bunch of football.

From that perspective, Fischer realized that a perfect season was most likely a once-

in-a-lifetime proposition.

Now, Fischer has new life.

When Nebraska held off Oklahoma, 28-21, in Norman, Okla., Nov. 26, the Huskers celebrated the first unbeaten (12-0) regular season in Tom Osborne's 11-year regime. That set up a national championship date with the University of Miami (10-1) and ranked No. 5 in the Orange Bowl's golden anniversary celebration the night of January 2.

The current Cornhuskers, with a victory, can become only the second team in history to go 13-0.

"It would be a greater feat now. We don't get as many scholarships. It's more difficult to go unbeaten. There's better balance across the country. There are only two teams (Nebraska and Texas) who are unbeaten," Fischer said.

Osborne, who was a Devaney assistant in 1971, said, "It's unusual. If we could go 13-0...there's only one other team that's ever

done it. We would be in some rather rare company."

Fischer: "You just don't expect to go unbeaten today in 13 games, even with good people like we have. It's something to be able to get people to play that way game after game without any down games. People don't realize that there's not much difference between good teams and average teams these days. You have to overcome bad calls, attitudes, injuries.

"To have those kinds of people is extremely rare. Every team we play, we can make their season. You take that kind of shot 13 times. We've got some classy players. Sure, we felt there was a chance for a national championship, but, personally, I never looked that far ahead. We have to prepare for a national championship, now, not just a football game."

Miami, of course, is entertaining similar thoughts. With a 10-game winning streak, the Hurricanes can stake a claim with an upset.

Osborne: "I'm sure Miami is a great defensive team and throws the ball very well. It will probably be as difficult circumstances as any bowl you could possibly pick because of the home-team element." Miami plays its home games in the Orange Bowl.

"It appears to me that we're going to have to overcome a seven to 10-point deficit just because of that factor," Osborne said. "I don't think our odds are any better than 50-50. I don't care what the gamblers say, what anybody says. That game down there is really going to be tough.

"But we want to give ourselves every chance to do it. How our players respond is going to be critical. With our weather, we're going to have to work awfully hard to maintain the same type of physical edge that will be easy for Miami to have.

"We're going to have to do a lot of extra running and lifting. After 12 games, a long season, some teams won't push themselves that hard. But we're going to have to be in real good shape by the time we get there because you can't go down there and get acclimated and get ready to play the game in six days.

"It's very easy to lose the Orange Bowl in the first three weeks of December," Osborne said.

Osborne, of course, felt the Big Eight championship showdown at Oklahoma would be no easier, despite three previous OU losses. "It was a tossup, regardless of the point spreads. If we could just go down and win it, we would be doing very well, and that's just about the way it worked out."

Twice, the Huskers had to come from a touchdown behind, and they weathered a furious Sooner rally that carried to the Nebraska 2-yard line in the last minute. A touchdown and two-point conversion there,

and so much for all that 13-0 business.

As the Huskers trooped back out into the rain at Owen Field, the score was deadlocked, 14-14. Nebraska equipment manager Glen Abbott waited until the players left, then slipped on a University of Miami jersey under his jacket. It was a surprise for the expected celebration.

Abbott had worked a swap with his Miami counterpart when the Huskers worked out at the Hurricanes' facilities during the last two Orange Bowls. This year, Nebraska will move out to Tropical Park, a former thoroughbred track.

"I kept the jersey covered up until about 20 seconds or so were left, or when I was sure we had it won," Abbott said. "I was beginning to wonder if I was ever going to get to take off my jacket."

Abbott wasn't the only one getting antsy as the Sooners went up by 21-14 in the third quarter. Orange Bowl Committeeman Stan Marks and Harper Davidson were fidgeting in the press box. A relieved Marks finally said, "We got the result we wanted. We'd like to stage the national championship game every year. This time we will. It's especially nice for that to happen for our 50th anniversary game."

Some other Miamians were more than ca-

sual observers in Norman. Miami Coach Howard Schnellenberger and a half-dozen of his assistants were pulling for the Huskers. They didn't want their showcase diminished.

"It was a real tribute to Nebraska's defense to be able to shut down Oklahoma in its own stadium with all the momentum they had going there in the last few minutes," Schellenberger said. "They've got three great playmakers and an offensive line that makes them into great playmakers. We're going out to win the game. I hope a lot of good things happen so we can steal their national championship."

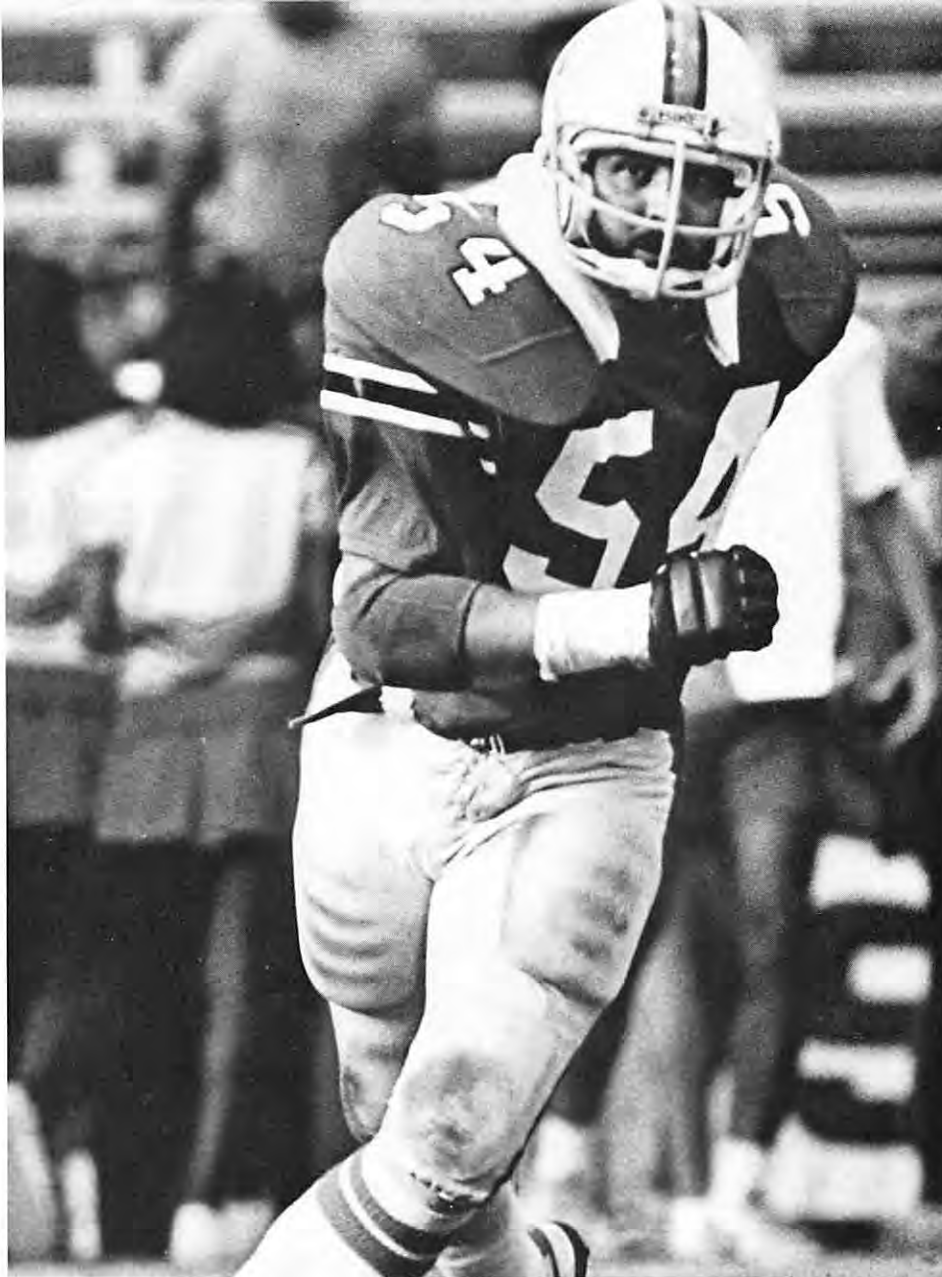
Before Nebraska could secure its third straight undefeated Big Eight championship — the first outright triple since Bud Wilkinson's Oklahomans won six in 1953-58 — two of its greatest players accentuated their greatness in times of greatest stress.

Oklahoma had stunned the Huskers with a 73-yard touchdown pass from Danny Bradley to Buster Rhymes to take a 14-7 lead with 2:19 left in the half.

Quarterback Turner Gill, who has directed victories in 29 of 30 games in which he has started and pulled out two more off the bench, took his team 73 yards in five plays to tie it, starting out with a 15-yard pass completion and scrambling 40 yards on the next



Albert Bentley led the Hurricane ground attack.



Jay Brophy, linebacker, is the heart of the defense.

And Osborne: "It's a tremendous feat for our players to go 12-0 when they've taken the best shot each team had to offer week after week. Twelve and 0 is as good as you can get to this point. I just hope we can do it one more time."

Will the Cornhuskers pinch Miami to see if the Hurricanes really are dreaming?

Howard Schnellenberger, the pipe-smoking messiah who delivered the University of Miami out of football ignominy, shook his head at the manner in which his team concluded a most unlikely 10-game run and qualified for the Orange Bowl opposite Nebraska.

Schnellenberger, who did his prep work under people like Blanton Collier, Bear Bryant, George Allen and Don Shula, and once head coached the Baltimore Colts, took a young team up to Gainesville for the season-opener against hated Florida. Statistically, it was about a tossup. Seven turnovers did in the 'Canes, 28-3.

From the ashes of that distasteful start, Miami built a string of 10 consecutive victories, a school record. Most teams dread staying home for the holidays; not Miami. An invitation to play in the Orange Bowl, its home stadium during the season, was the ultimate.

How the Hurricanes made their way home is why *Sports Illustrated* called them "The most amazing college football team of 1983."

Miami finished up with Florida State, its other primary rival, in Tallahassee. The Hurricanes trailed 16-7 in the third quarter and 16-14 when Miami got one last chance with 2:12 remaining. Keith Griffin, younger brother of Cincinnati Bengals Archie and Ray, dashed 20 yards to the Seminole 9, and Schnellenberger summoned 5-6, 140-pound Jeff "Flea" Davis on fourth down at the 2 with the clock reading :03.

Davis had earlier missed on two field-goal attempts and had missed in a similar situation the year before against Maryland to deprive Miami of a bowl trip. This time, the 19-yarder was true, and Miami was in the Orange Bowl, 17-16.

Schnellenberger called it "a fairybook story with a fairybook ending. I never, ever dreamed that a season would go like this. I guess it's fitting that the game went down to the fourth quarter and even the final play."

Schnellenberger shouldn't have been all that surprised; he has been pointing Miami toward such dramatics since leaving the Miami Dolphins for the local college team in 1979. He inherited a program that employed six head coaches in the nine years before he arrived. Their combined record was 31-56.

Schnellenberger's second and third teams tied the school record with nine victories, and his fifth team broke it with 10 and the first post-season game in the Orange Bowl in 33 years.

In five seasons, Schnellenberger's log is 40-

play.

After OU went up 21-14 in the third quarter, Mike Rozier, who set Big Eight season and career rushing records, broke the national scoring record and became only the second collegian to run for more than 2,000 yards, took an option pitch 62 yards on the next play. Gill sneaked in one play later from the 2, and Mark Schellen's touchdown on the next series provided the winning margin.

The Huskers, however, couldn't finalize their national championship plans until Neil Harris batted down two final passes from the Husker 10 after a penalty and Billy Weber's sack pushed the Sooners back from the 2.

Rozier had already made a shambles of the Heisman Trophy race, but Osborne added this amen: "For Mike to gain over 2,000 yards (2,148) is quite an accomplishment. Marcus Allen (USC) is the only other back to ever gain 2,000, and he had a lot more carries. Mike averaged a little less than eight yards per carry (7.8). The other recent Heisman winners, like Marcus Allen and Herschel

Walker, averaged five or six yards.

"Had Mike carried as many times as those other guys, he would have had well over 3,000 yards."

So the Huskers march on to the Orange Bowl, chasing the elusive perfect season, against Miami, a private school in Coral Gables, which has feasted on its most glorious season in 58 years and will play in the post-season Orange Bowl for the first time in 33 years. Miami, too, will chase a dream while pocketing its entire share of \$1.8 million while Nebraska must divvy up its take with its Big Eight cousins.

After reaching 12-0, Husker wingback Irving Fryar said the Big Eight finale was "electrifying. There was a lot of excitement, a lot of tension, a lot of stress." The only thing left now is to win the national championship.

Offensive tackle Scott Raridon added: "This whole experience will help us win the Orange Bowl. You need one tough game to prepare for another."

Ken Sisk led the celebrated Brophy in tackles.

16. Is the home field an advantage? Miami is 24-2 in the Orange Bowl under Schnellenberger.

Along the road to the OB, Schnellenberger discovered that his instincts were sound when he picked the name of redshirt freshman Bernie Kosar from among three in a hat to start at quarterback. He stuck with Kosar after the losing start, and the rookie broke George Mira's 1963 season completion mark with 210. His 2,329 passing yards fell 74 short of Jim Kelly's two-year-old record.

With Kosar running the show, the Hurricanes broke the school record with 282 points (Nebraska set an NCAA record with 596 in the same number of games). Tight end Glenn Dennison set a school record with 54 receptions (18 more than Husker leader Irving Fryar in the first 11 games). Hurricane Stanley Shakespeare, Albert Bentley and Ed Brown each caught over 30 passes.

Miami's offense opened the season with only four returning starters and lost two of them — guard Mike Moore and fullback Speedy Neal — to injuries during the season. The Hurricane rushing game was adequate.

Albert Bentley collecting 722 yards (5.01 average), Griffin 447 (4.43) and Neal 295 (4.47). In the same number of games, Husker Mike Rozier outdistanced all three of them (1,943) by nearly 500 yards.

But it was the defense that set Miami apart. It was a group with no known superstars at the start. Only two starters were heavily recruited in high school. It was a mouthy group on the field. And it backed its words.

While the offense was setting a school scoring record, the Miami defense was holding opponents to 106 points, also a school record for an 11-game season. It finished the season ranked No. 3 in the nation in scoring defense (9.6 points per game) and fourth in total defense (259 yards). It set a school record with 11 consecutive scoreless quarters (three vs. Houston and shutouts vs. Notre Dame and Purdue) and gave up only 10 points all season in the fourth quarter.

The Hurricane defense is small by Big Eight standards, but it is quick and supports extremely well. Linebacker Jay Brophy is the main All-America candidate, but fellow linebacker Ken Sisk leads him in total tackles, 139-127.

Brophy was twice named the nation's "defender of the week" by the Associated Press, sharing it against Notre Dame with freshman cornerback Reggie Sutton. Defensive tackle Fred Robinson was UPI's national "lineman of the week" against West Virginia.

The young Hurricanes grew up quickly after the humbling trip to Gainesville. It was on the road again for game No. 2, to the AstroDome and Houston University.

The Coogs took off on an 80-yard touchdown march on the opening drive. Hardly an auspicious start for a team that would soon become domineering on de-



fense.

Miami rallied behind four interceptions and two fumble recoveries, Houston fell, 29-7, and the 'Canes were rolling.

Purdue came calling on the Orange Bowl and went home spanked, 35-0. Then it was prestige time. Notre Dame, national TV. Miami had beaten the Irish only twice since 1955 in regular meetings.

Kosar completed 22 of 33 passes for 215 yards and a touchdown. Notre Dame tried to pick on freshman Sutton, the cornerback. Sutton blocked two field goals and knocked down a potential touchdown pass. The defense pitched another shutout, and Hurricane confidence soared, 20-0.

Duke fell in Durham, 56-17...back home over Louisville, 42-14...up to Starkville for Mississippi State and all those cowbells. The Bulldogs' John Bond, who had played quarterback against Nebraska as a freshman in the 1980 Sun Bowl, had one of the worst days of his career, two completions in 14 attempts. Kosar hit 23 of 38 for 271 yards and two touchdowns. Miami won, 31-7.

Miami successfully met another challenge to win its seventh straight in Cincinnati's Riverfront Stadium. Cincinnati was held to 144 total yards while the Hurricanes mustered a 17-7 victory in a downpour.

Things got tougher down the stretch...and

the fairytale grew.

West Virginia, which had been ranked No. 4 in the nation the week before, was greeted by a howling OB audience of 63,881 for the Hurricanes' homecoming. The defense sacked star QB Jeff Hostetler, who had been a Penn State freshman in a loss to Nebraska, five times. Brophy had 15 tackles and an interception, and middle guard Tony Fitzpatrick had two sacks and nine unassisted tackles. West Virginia managed 2 net yards rushing, and Miami jumped to 8-1 with a 20-3 victory.

But there was trouble for the Hurricanes. Speedy Neal was lost for the remainder of the schedule with a shoulder separation, and Fitzpatrick was lost with a torn bicep muscle. With seven weeks off, they are expected back for the Orange Bowl.

Next up was East Carolina in Miami. East Carolina was no slouch; it had whipped Missouri in Columbia and led Miami at the half, 7-0. Kosar made it 7-6 with a touchdown pass to Bentley in the third quarter, then took his team 80 yards to the winner, 12-7 on a 1-yard run with 1:04 left.

The Hurricanes have only to get past Florida State in Tallahassee to complete the fairytale season. Nebraska will help write the final chapter the night of Jan. 2. •



Stuckey makes a rare find with an interception against Colorado. Mike Tranmer, left, and Mike Keeler help him celebrate.

Stuckey's Beyond

If you watch defensive tackle Rob Stuckey through binoculars while he plays football, you can see the intensity on his face. It's as if there isn't another thing in the whole wide world as important as doing his job for the Cornhuskers.

Well, of course, there are more important things, even for a kid who wasn't going to let anything stop him from becoming a Husker, and Rob Stuckey knows it.

"Just because you're good at a game, doesn't make you a better person or anything else," he says. "When I was young, I tended to put Nebraska football players really up on a pedestal. Now that I'm one I realize we're really like everyone else."

"The glory of being a football player isn't the kind of thing that is going to last down the road," Stuckey says. "I get a sense of personal satisfaction out of playing with the best because that must mean I am one of the best. But glory? That's secondary. I know how fast that can go away."

And when it does, when the pass interception against Colorado and all the rest is just a memory, Stuckey will still have the education that he has pursued as relentlessly as he pursues opposing ball-carriers.

His cumulative grade point average as a finance major in the College of Business Administration is 3.629 on a 4.0 scale. Although he has another season of football eligibility to go because of a redshirt year,

Intensity Extends The Football Field

Lexington native was relentless in his efforts to become a Husker; physical problems were forgotten, and a model student-athlete emerged.

By Don Pieper

Stuckey will graduate this spring and intends to play next fall while starting work toward a masters degree in business administration.

He will be one of the rare major college football starters to graduate in four years. In fact, according to Ursula Walsh, the academic counselor for the Husker athletic program, only about a quarter of all students, athletes or not, graduate in four years. And not many students, even if they don't have the distractions of football practices and travel, approach Stuckey's grade average.

Says Ms. Walsh about Stuckey's classroom performance: "It's just astounding."

Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride is no less impressed by Stuckey's efforts on the AstroTurf.

"Rob's probably the most consistent defensive lineman we have on the team," McBride says. "He puts out as good an effort as any football player I've ever coached. It's just 100 percent all the time — in practice just as much as in games."

His fellow students recognized Stuckey as a scholar-athlete by selecting him for the senior honorary society, Mortar Board. Last year, the young man from Lexington was a member of the All-Big Eight Academic Team and he is a favorite to repeat this year and next.

Stuckey has an aw-shucks attitude about his accomplishments. He is obviously pleased that his effort has been rewarded. He did volunteer in an interview that he is proud never to have been unable to start a high school or college game because of injury. "I've missed some practices, but I've always been ready on game day," he says.

But not a word about an episode when he was an eighth grader that makes his present success as a national championship-caliber player all the more remarkable.

It was on Christmas Day 1975. His appendix burst. He was rushed by ambulance from Lexington to University Hospital in Omaha. It would be February before he was well

enough to return home. For nearly five weeks, he couldn't eat any solid food.

"There were tubes in and out of him everywhere," Rob's dad, Lexington banker Harold Stuckey, remembers. "We really were quite concerned. He didn't weigh hardly anything."

"He was just skin and bones," Kathy Stuckey, Rob's mom, says. "It was so depressing. Rob would look at his legs and body and say, 'How will I ever play football for Nebraska?'"

"His dad bought him a weight set, and Rob started working out. He was so determined to build himself back up. He wouldn't even go on vacation with us unless he was assured there was an exercise room at the hotel. And he wanted us to choose a tall hotel, so he could run the stairs.

"It's really exciting to see how he brought himself back when he had every excuse to quit."

"It really amounted to starting over," Harold Stuckey says, "but by the next fall, Rob was back to normal. He played junior high football that year."

Mrs. Stuckey wasn't surprised at her son's determination. "He always has tried to excel in everything he does," she says. "He was just born with desire, I guess."

"I remember that he always had projects for himself. He decided once he would be a writer, and he wrote I don't know how many stories. Then he decided to invent toys and he sent an idea in to a toy company and they sent back a contract, but of course he was just a youngster and we didn't let him sign it. Then he wanted to be a chemist, and he turned the third floor of our home into a chemistry lab."

Mrs. Stuckey says there is another story that says a lot.

"One of the nicest things about Rob is that he cares about others," she says. "I was going through some papers the other day and came across a clipping from the Scottsbluff paper about a boy who was then a senior in high school and a star baseball player. But he says when he was a kindergartner or a first grader he had a bone disease in his legs and had to use crutches. We lived in Gering at that time and when the other kids would tease this youngster, Rob would defend him."

"Well, in this newspaper story, the young man said he kept working to get healthy because when he was little he had a friend who told him to keep working and it would all pay off. That friend was Rob Stuckey."

Eventually, Rob would have to use the same kind of determination to overcome a health problem of his own so he could become a football player. "I grew up in Nebraska and I wanted to play for the Big Red," he says. Football became, if not an obsession, then something close.

He went out for track as a sophomore, but was too slow to stay interested. He was no basketball player. He did wrestle, and was 24-3 as a senior heavyweight, but that was to help keep in shape.

Mostly, it was unrelenting work in the weight room that kept him in shape. During a Nebraska summer football camp, he was introduced to the philosophies of Boyd

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Epley, the Huskers' strength and conditioning coach.

Young Stuckey went back to Lexington and developed a program for himself and pursued it with such vigor that Dennis Thorell, who was the Lex football coach at the time, says he frequently had to boot Stuckey out of the school weight room so he could lock up.

"Then, he would be the first one in the next morning. He was just working on weights all the time," Thorell says. "He wanted so badly to play Nebraska football."

Thorell says Stuckey was his own weight coach. "He knew what he was doing. In fact, I never knew when he left here what he could bench press. I'll bet it was a lot, but Rob wasn't interested in bragging about how much he could do; he just was interested in building himself up. He worked like crazy."

Thorell says Stuckey is still cited by the Lexington coaches as an example of what hard work and dedication can do.

On the field, Stuckey played tackle, offense and some defense. "It shows you how smart we were," Thorell says. Stuckey has been a defensive tackle throughout his collegiate career and he says he prefers defense because he can play more aggressively. But Thorell says Stuckey was "a great high school offensive tackle. We used his hole (followed his blocks) all the time."

It was an impressive prep career. The Minutemen were 6-3 each of the three years Stuckey played. But there were those who were doubtful about Stuckey's chances at the Big Eight level, Thorell said. Husker Coach Tom Osborne was not among the doubters.

"Tom told me he thought Rob could make it," Thorell, a Husker letterman in 1965-66, said. "I believed Tom, but I confess I didn't realize he would turn out to be this good."

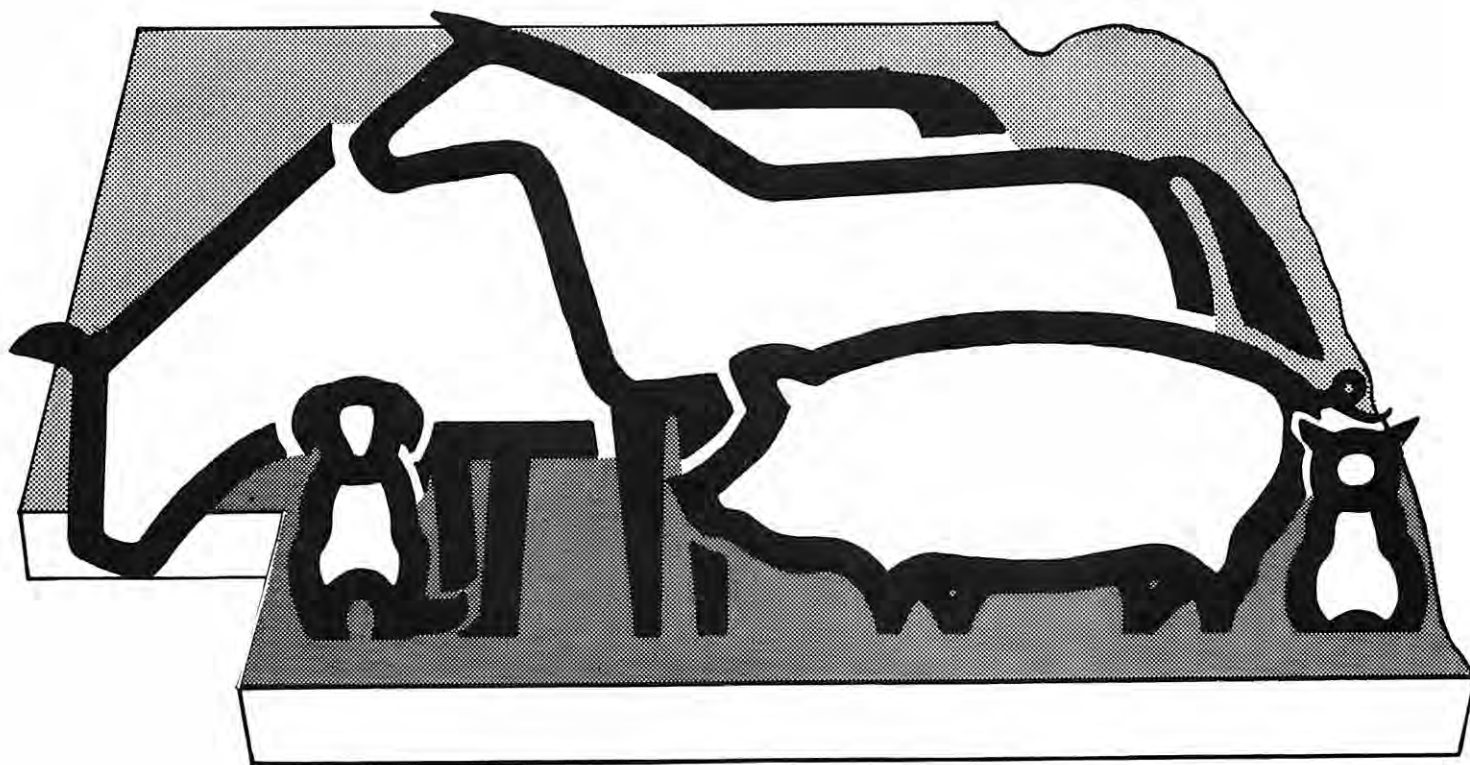
"When Coach Osborne contacted me and offered a scholarship, I thought I was living a fantasy," Stuckey says. "I did take a trip to Iowa City, but that was just for the trip. There was no way I was going to be a Hawkeye, that's for sure."

His parents were pleased Rob would be a Husker, too. "There is no other coach I would rather have a son play for than Coach Osborne," Mrs. Stuckey said.

Stuckey started as a freshman on the Husker junior varsity. "We really had a good team. Turner Gill, Irving Fryar and those guys were freshmen with me. We really mopped up. I knew then I was part of a really first-class program," he said.

After redshirting his second year at the university, he was thrust into a starting role in the third game of the 1982 season. Doug Herrmann, who had been the starter at right tackle, was hurt on the Wednesday before the Penn State game. "It seemed obvious that Thursday that he wouldn't be able to play, so I knew then that I would get my first start," Stuckey says. He's been a starter ever since.

Coach McBride said he had confidence in Stuckey. "He's never let me down," McBride says. "In the Kansas State game this year, Jim Skow was a little banged up and Rob had to be in for 72 plays. That's the most



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anybody's had to play since I've been here. But Rob didn't care. If that's what was necessary, he'd do it. Rob just doesn't ease up."

The next week, against Iowa State, Stuckey suffered a slight concussion and had to be kept in the hospital through the weekend so tests could be conducted. Everything checked out, and he was back for the Kansas game.

He enjoyed the interception against Colorado — and everyone got a kick out of his remarks that he decided to fall down rather than try to imitate a running back — but his biggest football thrill was the 28-24 victory over Oklahoma in 1982.

"When all the people ran down on the field, I just stood there and felt really satisfied," Stuckey says. "I thought, 'Finally, we can relax a little.' That had to be the highlight."

His reveries were interrupted by big brother, Mike, who had found him in the middle of the chaos. "He was pounding me all over. I just stood there. I had to envy him because he sure had more energy than I did at that point," Stuckey says.

It was appropriate that Mike and Rob got to share that happy moment, because the Stuckeys are a close family. Harold and Kathy, the parents, have attended every one of Rob's Husker games, except the 1982 season's Orange Bowl and the 1983 Missouri game. Each time, business affairs interfered. Harold Stuckey is president of the Lexington State Bank, and he was the 1982 president of the Nebraska Bankers Association.

"They are pretty loyal," the son says of his folks. "It's nice to know there is somebody up there in the stands who thinks you're doing a good job all the time," Stuckey said. He said there once was a loud critic in the stands behind where the Stuckeys were sitting. "Mom turned around and shut him up," Rob says.

Brother Mike, 22, graduated from UNL in finance in 1982 and plans to enroll at Northwestern for his MBA. He had played fullback at Lex, but didn't pursue the sport in college.

Still at home are John, 16, a Lexington junior and the third Stuckey to play football for the Minutemen, and Sarah, 7.

Rob Stuckey could "retire" from college football after this season since he will be graduating. But he is likely to continue. Coach McBride says he would understand either way. Stuckey says he has an open mind about professional football. He says he would consider any opportunities. But he is preparing for life as a banker. The past two summers, he has been an intern at First National Lincoln. •

Stuckey shows his domestic side in his Lincoln apartment.



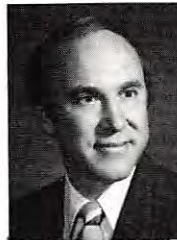
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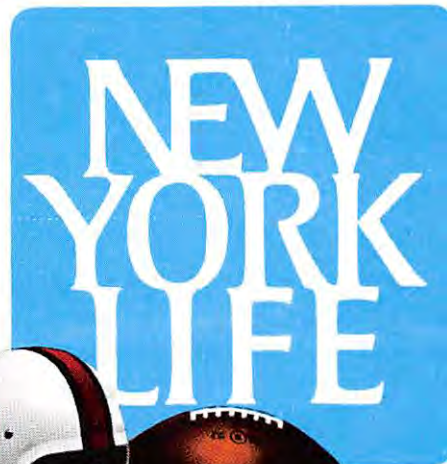
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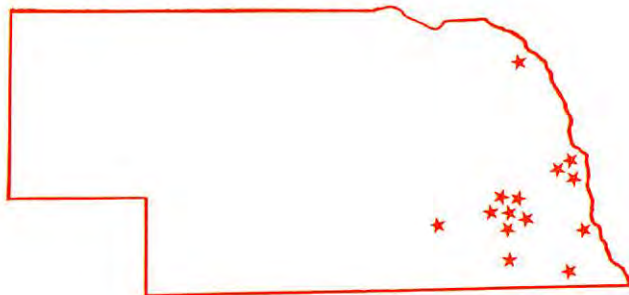
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Huskers Illustrated



**The
Budweiser
Edition**

Review
Nebraska 28, Oklahoma 21

Preview
**Nebraska vs Miami
The Orange Bowl**

PULL OUT
Nebraska-Oklahoma
Weekly Update

The Budweiser Edition

In This Issue

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on the cover...

Tom Rathman (26) has daylight in front of him, but not above, as the sophomore fullback rambles for a big gain, splashing water from the rain-soaked turf along the way.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published twenty (20) times annually, weekly in September, October and November except twice weekly the first week in October and the first week in November and monthly in January, March, May, June, August and December by University Sports Publications, Inc., 7418 E. 42 Place, Tulsa, OK., 74145. Second class postage paid at Tulsa, Oklahoma and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to the **Huskers Illustrated**, Circulation Office, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE., 68501.

Subscriptions — \$24.95 per year. Nebraska residents add 4 percent sales tax. For subscription information, write the **Huskers Illustrated**, Box 83222, Lincoln, NE., 68501. A percentage of the subscription proceeds will be donated to the University of Nebraska Athletic Department.

Permission to reprint material contained in this magazine must be obtained in writing from the Publisher.

The toll-free telephone number for editorial and advertising offices is 1-800-331-9193. *Lithoed in Canada.*

Three in a Row, 28-21

NORMAN, OKLA. — It had been a season mostly devoid of close calls, high drama and tension. Lopsided scores were the norm for the nation's top-ranked Cornhuskers. The finale in Tom Osborne's first perfect season included a season's worth of excitement before the Huskers completed a third straight unbeaten run through the Big Eight Conference and could turn toward a national championship date with Miami in the Orange Bowl.

Osborne had taken unbeaten teams to Norman in 1975 and '79 and had lost. This time, the Sooners were sub-par with three losses, but they could still tie for the championship, and they mustered a valiant effort that earned the '83 game an honored spot in the storied Shootout Series.

Twice, Nebraska had to come from a touchdown behind, which it did with devastating suddenness, befitting the most potent offense in college football history. But it was the defense, in the finest Blackshirt tradition, that blunted one last Sooner bid for a miracle finish that carried to the Cornhusker 2-yard line in the final minute.

Oklahoma got its final chance when Nebraska failed to pad its 28-21 lead with a field goal attempt with 5:50 remaining. OU had 73 yards to go. Husker cornerback Neil Harris was short on an interception attempt and Derrick Shepard escaped for a 27-yard gain to the 11. On the next play, I-back Earl Johnson took it to the 2.

Nebraska's coaches were busy working on a defense for the anticipated two-point conversion that could win it for the Sooners when OU was set back by an illegal prodecure penalty. Then end Billy Weber dropped quarterback Danny Bradley for a 3-yard loss on a rollout.

With 42 seconds left, Harris knocked down a slant pass over the middle that had been tipped by linebacker Mike Knox. On fourth down, with 37 seconds left, Harris shadowed Buster Rhymes into the left corner and knocked a floater away to save it.

Game Stats

TEAM

	NU	OU
First downs rushing	13	13
First down passing	6	6
First downs penalty	1	0
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	20	19
Attempts rushing	57	55
Yards gained rushing	382	275
Yards lost rushing	16	42
NET YARDS RUSHING	366	233
Passes attempted	16	13
Passes completed	7	6
Passes had intercepted	1	0
NET YARDS PASSING	58	187
Total plays	73	68
TOTAL YARDAGE	424	420
Interception return yds	0	7
Punts-Yards	4-132	5-227
Punting average	33.0	45.4
Punts blocked by	0	1
Punt returns-Yards	1-1	1-8
Kickoff returns-Yards	4-110	4-83
Penalties-Yards	1-5	6-50
Fumbles-Fumbles lost	2-0	2-0

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing

Nebraska — Rozier 32 carries for 205 yards, 1 TD, 62-yard long gain; Gill 11 for 55, 1, 40; Rathman 5 for 48, 0, 28; Schellen 8 for 40, 2, 17; Fryar 1 for 18, 0, 18.

Oklahoma — Tillman 16 carries for 134 yards, 2 TDs, 39-yard long gain; Johnson 23 for 84, 0, 9; Ledbetter 3 for 14, 0, 7; Bradley 12 for 13, 0, 16; Shepard 1 for -12, 0, -12.

PASSING

NU — Gill 7 completions in 16 attempts, 1 interception, 0 TDs, 15-yard long gain.

OU — Bradley 6 completions in 13 attempts, 0 interceptions, 1 TD, 73-yard long gain.

RECEIVING

NU — Fryar 4 receptions for 27 yards, 0 TDs, 12-yard long gain; Simmons 2 for 23, 0, 15; Brungardt 1 for 8, 0, 8.

OU — Rhymes 3 receptions for 127 yards, 1 TD, 73-yard long gain; Shepard 3 for 60, 0, 27.

PUNTING

Nebraska — Livingston 3 punts for 105 yards, 35-yard average, 46-yard long punt; 1 team punt for 27 yards.

OU — Atyia 5 punts for 227 yards, 45.4 average, 68-yard long punt.

ALL RETURNS

NU — Rozier 2 kickoff returns for 62 yards; Smith 1 punt return for 11 yards and 2 kickoff returns for 48 yards.

OU — Shepard 1 punt return for 8 yards and 3 kickoff returns for 63 yards; Rhymes 1 kickoff return for 20 yards; Benson 1 interception return for 7 yards.

DEFENSIVE

NU — Weber 6 unassisted, 0 assists for 6 tackles; Strasburger 4-0 for 4; Graeber 4-0 for 4; Keeler 3-0 for 3; Tranmer 3-0 for 3; Herrmann 2-0 for 2; Stuckey 2-0 for 2; Smith 1-0 for 1; Knox 10-2 for 12; Daum 4-1 for 5; Harris 4-1 for 5; Burke 4-0 for 4; Clark 4-0 for 4; McCashland 2-0 for 2.

OU — Bryan 6 unassisted, 2 assists for 8 tackles; Murphy 4-3 for 7; Slater 5-1 for 6; Wilson 2-0 for 2; Cassillas 1-1 for 2; Flemons 1-0 for 1; Truitt 1-0 for 1; Goodlow 1-0 for 1; Shipp 7-6 for 13; Benson 1-2 for 3; Miglizzo 1-0 for 1; Stanberry 5-2 for 7; Case 4-3 for 7; Rockford 6-0 for 6; Hall 1-0 for 1.

Big 8 Standings

	CONF.				ALL GAMES			
	W	L	T	PF	PA	W	L	T
Nebraska	7	0	0	335	130	12	0	0
Missouri	5	2	0	204	119	7	4	0
Oklahoma	5	2	0	216	121	7	4	0
Okla State	3	4	0	157	103	7	4	0
Iowa State	3	4	0	174	264	4	7	0
Kansas	2	5	0	163	241	4	6	1
Colorado	2	5	0	163	275	4	7	0
Kansas State	1	6	0	107	255	3	8	0

Coach Osborne's Evaluation



'I don't think anybody played badly. Our defense played pretty well, our offense played well.' *Tom Osborne.*

"Both teams were obviously intent and well-prepared, and when that happens you usually concentrate well on the ball. We were kind of counting on Oklahoma to turn the ball over some. They had averaged about four turnovers a game.

"We had been taking good care of the ball, and we were hoping we could continue to do so and they would continue to cough it up a few times. It turned out that they didn't, which made it a lot tougher," Osborne said.

Oklahoma did not have a turnover while Nebraska had only one — an interception — on a chilly day with frequent drizzle and occasional downpours.

"I don't think anybody played badly. Our defense played pretty well, our offense played well. I was concerned about moving the ball on them because I thought Oklahoma had a great defense and probably an underrated offense. We didn't know how we'd do against their offense because we hadn't faced a real good running team all year.

"They got two big plays, the long touchdown run by Spencer Tillman and the long pass. One of the things we talked about all week was to not give up the big play. We felt they'd have trouble scoring many points if they had to just bang it out. You take those two big plays away, and we would have played an outstanding defensive game.

"As it was, I think we played well, and of course the goal line stand at the end was outstanding.

"I thought Oklahoma played awfully well. I talked to one of their grad assistants after the game, and he thought it was maybe as good a game as they'd played in a couple of years. When you look at the turnovers and effort and everything, they played very well.

"Oklahoma's a much better football team right now than when they lost to Texas and Ohio State. The Missouri loss is a little bit of a mystery, but Oklahoma seems to have trouble playing on grass, even when they have their

Mike Rozier (30) hits the left side of the dependable Nebraska line as the nation's top rusher adds more yardage to his total. Rozier rushed for over 200 yards for the fourth straight week — this time against a defense which has allowed fewer than 100 yards per game on the ground!



very best teams."

The game was not without its controversy. Oklahoma Coach Barry Switzer argued vehemently that receiver Derrick Shepard was interfered with on a pass over the middle on the Sooners' next-to-last play from the Nebraska 10-yard line. Neil Harris knocked down the pass.

"The two coaches are probably the guys in the stadium who know least about what's happened out there. Mike Knox (linebacker) definitely did tip the ball, irrespective of what anybody says. Their coaches probably know that by now (after seeing the film). Any time you tip a ball, there is no such thing as pass interference after the ball is batted or tipped.

"Actually, as far as I'm concerned, Neil Harris was kind of in position, and the guy ran into him. So even if it wasn't tipped, I'm not sure it should have been a pass interference call.

"Those things happen, and you've got to shrug those off. I know in Barry's situation, that's very difficult right now to shrug anything off. And I'm sure if it had gone against us, I'd feel the same way," Osborne said.

"I thought we played a good ball game, Oklahoma played a good ball game and there were two very talented teams out there. It was a tough loss for Oklahoma and Barry Switzer, but we've been there a few times.

Oklahoma quarterback Danny Bradley completed six of 13 passes for 187 yards, including a 73-yard touchdown pass to Buster Rhymes. "Bradley played well, as well as I've ever seen him play, but one of the receptions was a deflection (a 34-yard catch by Rhymes after the ball was batted by Husker cornerback Dave Burke)."

Oklahoma surprised the Huskers by sticking primarily with an I-formation offense when Nebraska was expecting to see more wishbone. "That was one of the quandaries we had. We spent about half the time preparing for the wishbone, and they only ran it three plays. So they kind of hung their hat on the I-formation. The work we put in on the wishbone did help us on some of their options, so it wasn't wasted effort.

"We had only two really bad defensive plays in the game," he said. The first was a 39-yard

touchdown run by Spencer Tillman that tied the score at 7-7 in the second quarter.

"They were in a triple set, with three receivers to one side and that put us in a defense we didn't want to be in, but we had to cover all the receivers. We had never seen them run a counter sweep out of that set. One of our linebackers overran the play and that opened it up," he said.

The other major defensive error was the 73-yard Bradley-Rhymes pass. "It was really a well-thrown ball and a good pass route, but they caught us in bad position.

"We had some problems with field position. We started out at our 1 and 2 after punts and only started once in their territory. One of the problems was that their punter didn't punt very well, not far enough for us to field it, and we didn't want to take a chance with the wet ball and they got a couple of good rolls.

"It looked like a couple of times that Oklahoma was going to get control of the game, but we'd come right back and score in four or five plays.

"A great statistic for us was one penalty for five yards. Another big statistic was rushing yards (366 to OU's 233). When you can haul off and gain that many yards against a team that had been averaging only about 90 yards rushing against them, that's pretty good," he said.

Osborne singled out the effort of fullback Mark Schellen, who started on the bench in favor of sophomore Tom Rathman, and came back with eight carries for 40 yards and touchdown runs of 7 and 17 yards. Schellen set season (9) and career (12) school touchdown records for a fullback with his pair.

"Mark had a couple of games where he didn't play up to his standards. Rathman deserved to play. I like the way Schellen responded. He came back and became a better player," he said.

Osborne said he and his staff fully expected Oklahoma to try a two-point conversion if it scored on its final drive in the last minute. "I was on the phone (to the coaches in the press box) from the 40-yard line on in, talking about what defense we would go with against a two-point conversion. I'm not going to say what we would have done. We may run into that situation again."

Scoring Summary

Nebraska 28, Oklahoma 21

Nebraska	7	7	14	0 — 28
Oklahoma	0	14	7	0 — 21

NU-OU	How They Scored	Time Left
	First Quarter	
7-0	Schellen 7 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 67 yards in 13 plays	6:53
	Second Quarter	
7-7	Tillman 39 run (Lashar kick) Drive: 69 yards in 5 plays	4:05
7-14	Rhymes 73 pass from Bradley (Lashar kick) Drive: 73 yards in 1 play	2:11
14-14	Rozier 3 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 73 yards in 5 plays	0:42
	Third Quarter	
14-21	Tillman 18 run (Lashar kick) Drive: 43 yards in 6 plays	6:22
21-21	Gill 1 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 65 yards in 3 plays	5:25
28-21	Schellen 17 run (Livingston kick) Drive: 41 yards in 8 plays	0:35
	Fourth Quarter	
	No scoring	

Attendance: 75,008

Injury Report

There was little business in the Husker training room the morning after the Big Eight championship game in Norman.

Defensive end Scott Strasburger reported in for treatment on a strained hip muscle, I-back Jeff Smith had a sprained left knee and offensive tackle had a thigh bruise. If there were other injuries, the players nursed them at home rather than fight a snowstorm.

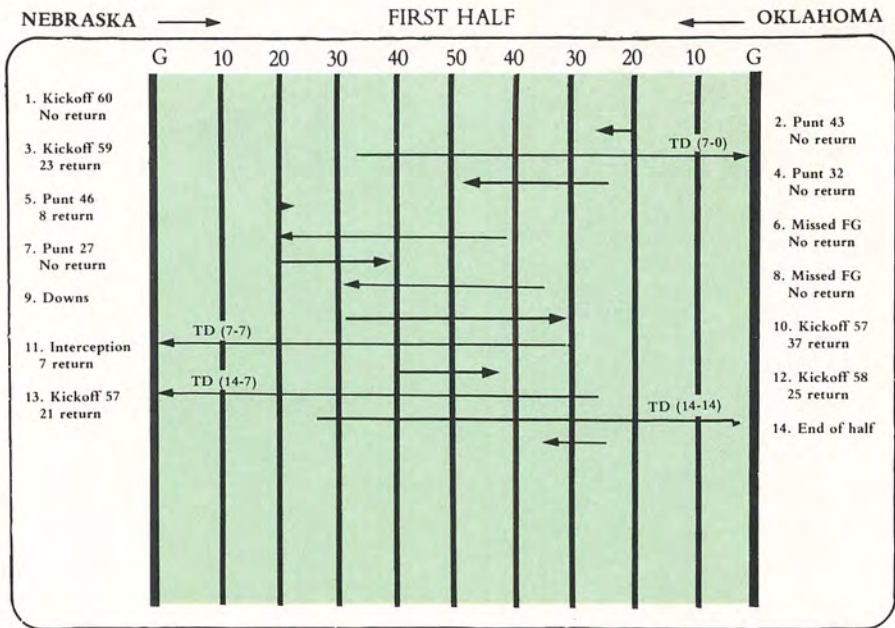
"Only about 35 people played very much, so there weren't many injuries," Trainer Jerry Weber said.

So the squad should be in good shape for the Orange Bowl showdown with Miami. "We've got more than a month to get ready for the Orange Bowl, so we have plenty of time to get healed up," Weber said.

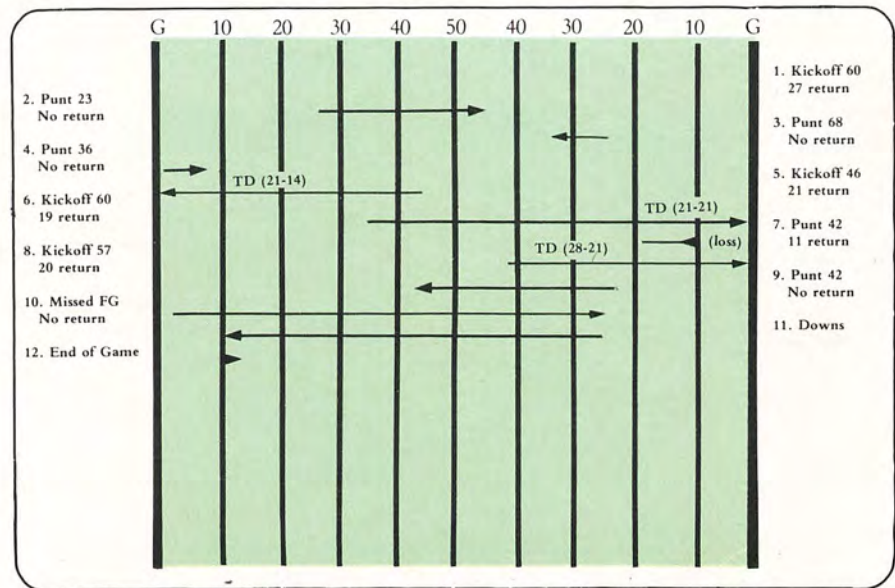
1983 Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Score
Aug. 29	Penn State (at E. Rutherford)	44-6
Sept. 10	Wyoming at Lincoln	56-20
Sept. 17	at Minnesota	84-13
Sept. 24	UCLA at Lincoln	42-10
Oct. 1	Syracuse at Lincoln	63-7
Oct. 8	at Oklahoma State	14-10
Oct. 15	at Missouri	34-13
Oct. 22	Colorado at Lincoln	69-19
Oct. 29	at Kansas State	51-25
Nov. 5	Iowa State at Lincoln	72-29
Nov. 12	Kansas at Lincoln	67-13
Nov. 26	at Oklahoma	28-21

Field Position Chart

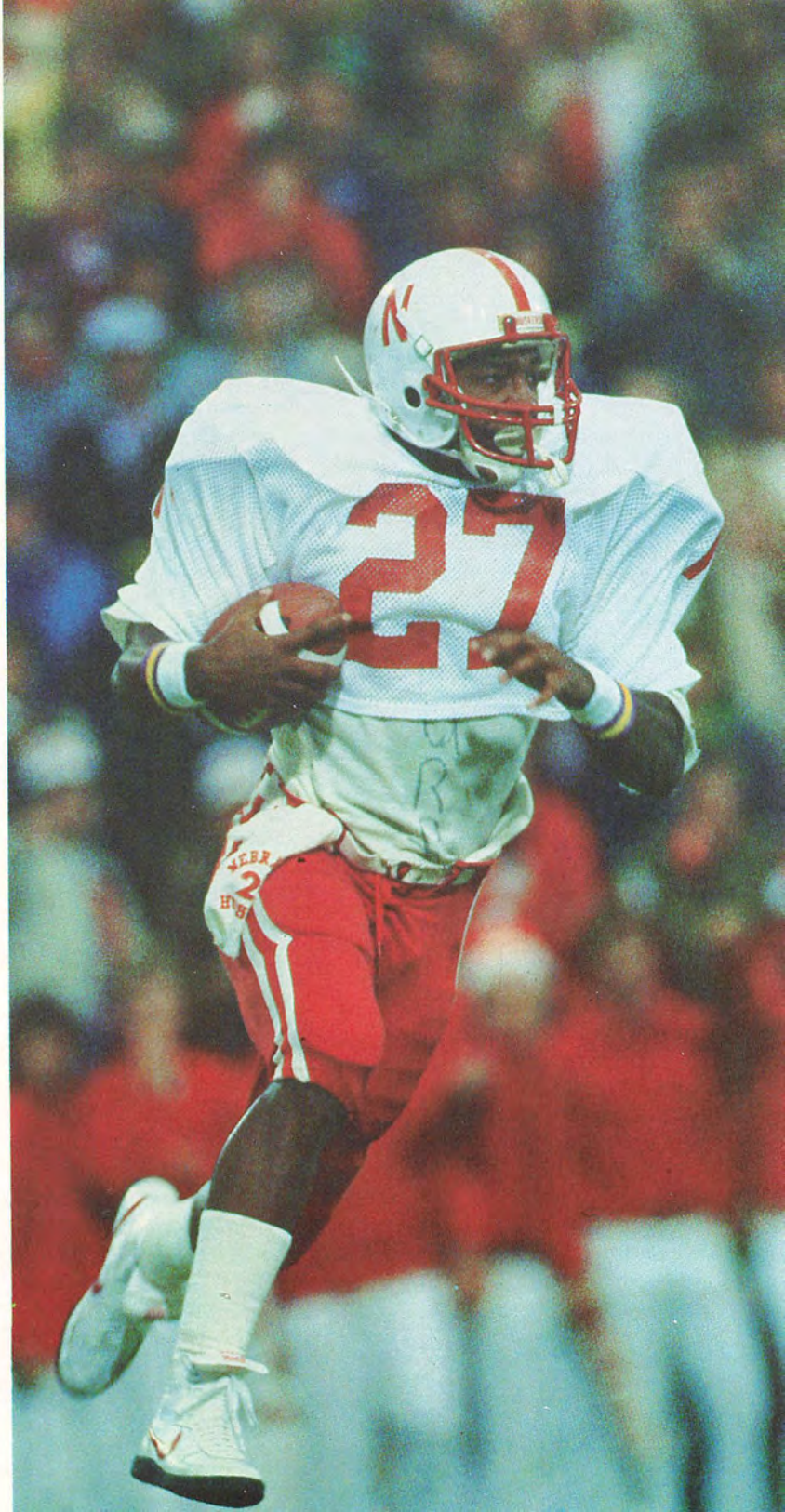


SECOND HALF



This field position chart shows how each offense moved the ball on each possession. The numbers and information down the side columns indicate how each possession ended (punt, fumble, interception, kickoff, etc.). If a team loses the ball after a kick (a return for a touchdown or a fumble), no possession will be indicated for the other team.

Irving Fryar is all alone as he circles his right end for this 18-yard gain on a reverse. Fryar carried the ball only this one time, but caught four passes for 27 yards as he kept the Oklahoma defense honest and helped open the way for Mike Rozier to have another 200-yard day.



Lockerroom Chatter

Neil Harris, cornerback — He came up short on a 27-yard completion on Oklahoma's final drive but saved the game by knocking down a pass over the middle on third down from the 10 and a fourth-down pass in the corner in the final minute. "I wasn't thinking about being a goat and then a hero or anything like that. I'm happy it went the way it did, not just for me but for all the players. I felt it was something we did together."

"On the third-down play, they thought it should have been interference, but the ball was tipped at the line of scrimmage, and it's fair game. I thought I had a better shot at the ball than he did. If the flag was thrown, it should have been on him."

"On the next play, I thought the quick out was the play they'd go with because they had gone with the slant the play before. That was their tendency. I didn't want to guess, I just wanted to see which way he'd go and break hard on the ball."

Mark Daum, linebacker — He underwent arthroscopic knee surgery three weeks earlier but played nearly the entire game. "Three weeks ago, all I was thinking about was getting my knee in shape. There was only a 50-50 chance, but there was no way I'd miss a Nebraska-Oklahoma game."

Tim Brungardt, fullback — He kept alive the Huskers' opening touchdown drive when he took a shovel pass from holder Turner Gill while cutting left from his right flank position on a fake field goal play that gained eight yards and a first down. "We worked on it every day last week, but not in a live situation. I lined up on the right side, outside the end. (Tom) Rathman was on the other side. The play can go either way."

"Turner calls '1' (right) or '9' (left) when he sees how the defense lines up. He called '9.' "

Ken Graeber, middle guard — "On their last drive, there were so many time-outs I was thinking what they'd do if they scored, go for

the tie or the win. We were hoping they'd go for two (points). That went through my mind, but I really thought we'd hold them out. Nobody's head was down. That was a great stereotype of a Nebraska-Oklahoma battle."

Mark Schellen, fullback — Sophomore Tom Rathman started in his place, but Schellen was in on the first series and scored the first and last touchdowns on runs of 7 and 17 yards. Those touchdowns tied Ray Novak's 1952 record for most TDs in a game by a Husker fullback, broke Doug Wilkening's record for most in a season (Schellen has nine) and Pete Tatman's 1964-66 career record (Schellen has 12). "The coaches told me they felt Tom's attitude and performance in practice had been a lot better than mine the last two weeks. It was a deal where they wanted me to make me realize what I had to do. They felt I wasn't doing as well as I was capable of. They were right. Tom was playing better."

"I was totally serious today. I wanted to get Doug's season touchdown record. I tried not to worry about anything and just work as hard as I could."

Tom Rathman, fullback — Grand Island sophomore started his first game and gained 48 yards on five carries, including a 28-yard breakaway as Nebraska ran off 5:20 on its final drive preceding a missed field goal. "The coaches told me last week that I was going to start, but I kinda messed up in practice on Monday, and I didn't know if I'd start until the kickoff. It doesn't make any difference to me if I start."

"The long run was a 38 trap. The first time we tried running it was on Mark's (Schellen's) second touchdown. There was a big hole there, and it was just a matter of hitting it. I probably *could* have gained another five or six yards, but I was thinking about going all the way. The defensive back was coming like heck and cutting me off from the side. I tried to cut back and use one of Mike Rozier's moves. It didn't work."

Season Stats

TEAM

	NU	OPP
First downs rushing	231	103
First down passing	75	118
First downs penalty	12	15
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	319	236
Attempts rushing	724	538
Yards gained rushing	5033	2158
Yards lost rushing	213	365
NET YARDS RUSHING	4820	1793
Passes attempted	192	371
Passes completed	107	183
Passes had intercepted	6	21
NET YARDS PASSING	1740	2627
Total plays	916	909
TOTAL YARDAGE	6560	4420
Interception return yds	309	22
Punts-Yards	36-1461	69-2732
Punting average	40.6	39.6
Punts blocked	0	1
Punt returns-Yards	45-433	16-60
Kickoff returns-Yards	28-525	76-1297
Penalties-Yards	63-561	63-525
Fumbles-Fumbles lost	44-15	34-15

Individual Rushing

	Att.	Yds.	Yds. Lost	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain
Rozier	275	2167	19	2148	7.8	71
Gill	109	649	118	531	4.9	47
Schellen	77	454	4	450	5.8	65
J. Smith	78	441	2	410	5.6	28
Fryar	23	318	0	318	13.8	54
Miles	29	281	0	281	9.7	78
Mason	35	242	20	222	6.3	39
Rathman	26	143	0	143	5.5	28
Sundberg	18	108	22	86	4.8	44

Passing

	Att.	Com.	Int.	Yds.	Pct.	TD
Gill	170	94	4	1516	55.3	14
Sundberg	12	9	0	159	75.0	2
Mason	9	4	1	65	44.4	2
Rozier	1	0	1	0	0.0	0

Pass Receiving

	No.	Yds	Avg.	Lg	TD
Fryar	40	780	29.5	70	8
Kimball	12	207	17.3	42	1
Simmons	13	137	10.5	18	0
Rozier	10	106	10.6	26	0
Eng'brt'sn	7	95	13.6	29	1
J. Smith	6	146	24.3	68	2
Frain	5	100	20.0	32	3
Swanson	5	66	13.2	31	1

Scoring

	TD	PAT	2-PAT	FG	TP
Rozier	29				174
Fryar	10		2-2		64
Gill	11		0-2		66
J. Smith	8				48
Schellen	9				54
Livingston		35-37		2-3	41
D. Schneider		32-36	1-1		35
Sundberg	4				24
Frain	3				18
Miles	3				18
Mason	2				12

Defensive Statistics

Unast. Ast. Total For
Tackles Tackles Tackles Loss

Linemen					
Bunger	1		1		-
Graeber	15	12	27		4-18
Herrmann	22	8	30		6-36
Keeler	17	23	40		1-6
Praeuner	10	3	13		4-15
Reeves	3	3	6		-
Reinhardt	2	0	2		1-2
Reynolds	5	1	6		-
Ridder	19	19	38		5-31
Shead	9	4	13		1-6
Skow	17	6	23		7-42
B. Smith	7	2	9		1-7
Strasburger	21	20	41		6-19
Stuckey	26	20	46		6-26
Tranmer	26	18	44		2-9
Tucker	4	1	5		-
Tyrer	1	1	2		1-4
Weber	24	10	34		4-25
White	1	0	1		1-10
Zierke	2		2		2-17

Linebackers

Armstrong		2	2		-
Daffer	13	11	24		1-1
Daum	44	49	93		9-17
Forch	1	0	1		-
Gangwish	1	2	3		-
Holloway	8	4	12		1-1
Knox	64	61	125		7-24
McCoy	4	2	6		-
Munford	3	0	3		-
Parsons	2	1	3		-
Proffitt	17	6	23		2-17
Wade	0	1	1		-

Backs

Biggers	2	0	2		-
Burke	32	21	53		4-5
Casterline	7	4	11		1-7
Clark	37	9	46		-
Fisher	9	4	13		1-1
Greene	8	1	9		-
Harris	34	14	48		-
McCashland	33	24	57		3-12
Paige	2	1	3		-
Pokorny	1	0	1		-
G. Rozier	3	0	3		-
Schneider	13	6	19		1-1
Thorell	3	0	3		-



Turner Gill (12) pivots and looks for the first option out of the Husker I offense. Gill was playing in his final Big Eight Conference contest in the 28-21 Nebraska win at OU, and finished his career with a league record that was perfect over three years.

TWO DEEP

NEBRASKA

DEFENSE

- LE**
87 Bill Weber, 6-2, 210, So.
86 Dave Ridder, 6-1, 205, Sr.
- LT**
61 Mike Keeler, 6-4, 245, Sr.
63 Doug Hermann, 6-4, 275, Sr.
- MG**
64 Mike Tranmer, 5-11, 230, Sr.
52 Ken Graeber, 6-2, 250, Jr.
- RT**
75 Rob Stuckey, 6-3, 250, Jr.
95 Jim Skow, 6-3, 225, So.
- RE**
90 Scott Strasburger, 6-1, 205, Jr.
85 Wade Praetner, 5-11, 200, Sr.
- SLB**
51 Mark Daum, 6-3, 235, Jr.
34 Todd Proffitt, 5-11, 235, So.
- WLB**
44 Mike Knox, 6-3, 235, Jr.
43 Tony Holloway, 6-2, 200, So.
- LC**
11 Neil Harris, 6-1, 195, Jr.
5 Rickey Greene, 5-9, 175, Jr.
- MON**
2 Mike McCashland, 6-1, 195, Jr.
24 Dan Casterline, 5-10, 205, So.
- S**
10 Bret Clark, 6-2, 200, Jr.
3 Gary Schneider, 5-11, 185, So.
- RC**
33 Dave Burke, 5-10, 195, Jr.
6 Todd Fisher, 6-0, 190, So.

NEBRASKA

OFFENSE

- SE**
17 Ricky Simmons, 5-10, 175, Sr.
88 Scott Kimball, 6-0, 185, Jr.
- LT**
73 Mark Behning, 6-8, 290, Jr.
67 Greg Orton, 6-1, 250, Jr.
- LG**
58 Hany Grimminger, 6-3, 260, Jr.
53 Anthony Thomas, 6-2, 275, Jr.
- C**
57 Mark Traynowicz, 6-6, 260, Jr.
54 Brad Muehling, 6-0, 220, Sr.
- RG**
71 Dean Steinhuhler, 6-3, 270, Sr.
70 Brian Blankenship, 6-0, 260, So.
- RT**
72 Scott Raridon, 6-3, 280, Sr.
65 Tim Roth, 5-11, 260, So.
- TE**
83 Monte Engebretson, 6-1, 220, Sr.
80 Todd Frain, 6-2, 215, So.
- QB**
12 Turner Gill, 6-0, 190, Sr.
8 Nate Mason, 6-0, 205, Sr.
- IB**
30 Mike Rozier, 5-11, 210, Sr.
28 Jeff Smith, 5-9, 190, Jr.
- FB**
25 Mark Schellen, 5-10, 225, Sr.
26 Tom Rathman, 6-0, 220, So.
- WB**
27 Irving Fryar, 6-0, 200, Sr.
17 Shane Swanson, 5-9, 195, Jr.
- PK**
48 Scott Livingston, 6-2, 200, Jr.
1 Dave Schneider, 5-7, 175, So.
- P**
48 Scott Livingston, 6-2, 200, Jr.
47 Dan Wingard, 6-1, 200, So.

MIAMI

OFFENSE

- SE**
40 Ed Brown, 6-0, 175, Jr.
7 John Smatana, 6-1, 177, Sr.
- LT**
79 Paul Bertucelli, 6-4, 248, Fr.
74 Gregg Rakoczy, 6-5, 278, Fr.
- LG**
69 Juan Comendiro, 6-2, 240, Jr.
77 Paul O'Connor, 6-0, 240, Jr.
- C**
76 Ian Sinclair, 6-3, 242, Sr.
56 Stu Schellenberger, 6-3, 248 Sr.
- RG**
72 Alvin Ward, 6-1, 258, Jr.
60 Owen Stephens, 6-2, 231, So.
- RT**
52 Dave Heffernan, 6-4, 250, Jr.
70 Ed Davis, 6-3, 252, Fr.
- TE**
86 Glenn Dennison, 6-3, 214, Sr.
88 Chris Hembrough, 6-2, 216, So.
- QB**
20 Bernie Kosar, 6-4, 204, Fr.
13 Kyle Vanderwende, 6-3, 204, So.
- WR**
6 Stanley Shakespeare, 6-0, 171, Jr.
11 David Kintigh, 6-0, 165, Fr.
- FB**
16 Albert Bentley, 5-11, 208, Sr.
30 Alonzo Highsmith, 6-1, 223, Fr.
- HB**
44 Keith Griffin, 5-8, 186, Sr.
37 Darryl Oliver, 5-11, 184, Fr.

MIAMI

DEFENSE

- LE**
41 Danny Brown, 6-3, 223, Sr.
57 Ron Harris, 6-0, 205, Jr.
- LT**
97 Fred Robinson, 6-3, 223, Sr.
80 Willie Broughton, 6-4, 245, Jr.
- MG**
66 Darin McMurray, 6-1, 232, So.
62 Tony Fitzpatrick, 6-0, 240, Sr.
- RT**
95 Kevin Fagan, 6-3, 261, So.
98 Jerome Brown, 6-2, 261, Fr.
- RE**
99 Julio Cortes, 6-4, 205, Jr.
92 Winston Moss, 6-3, 220, Fr.
- LB**
54 Jay Brophy, 6-3, 227, Sr.
51 Jack Fernandez, 6-1, 211, Sr.
- LB**
36 Ken Sisk, 6-1, 222, Sr.
90 Vic Morris, 6-1, 234, Fr.
- LC**
4 Rodney Bellinger, 5-9, 189, Sr.
43 Doug McFadden, 6-1, 186, Fr.
- RC**
1 Reggie Sutton, 5-10, 178, Fr.
47 Lucious Delegal, 6-2, 193, Jr.
- MON**
2 Kenny Calhoun, 6-1, 202, Jr.
27 Greg Jones, 6-2, 187, Jr.
- FS**
29 Eddie Williams, 6-0, 192, Sr.
28 Willie Martinez, 6-2, 193, Jr.
- PK**
3 Jeff Davis, 5-6, 140, Sr.
35 Mark Seelig, 5-11, 173, Fr.
- P**
12 Rick Tuten, 6-0, 186, Fr.
34 Steve Minie, 6-1, 181, Jr.

The Way We See It

Lyell Bremser

KFAB Radio, Omaha

"I think the game with Miami is a little bit scary, more so than any other on the Nebraska schedule. I guess it goes with being number one, but it seems to me they've been handed a heckuva mountain to climb to be forced to play the University of Miami on their home field before a predominantly partisan crowd.

"If the game were played on a neutral field, there would be no worries. Nebraska still is a better football team than Miami and will win the game in spite of the odds. Nevertheless, I'm convinced it'll be a titanic struggle."

Chuck Stevens

KFOR Radio, Lincoln

"One of the concerns of the coaches is the fact that it becomes a home contest for Miami. But I guess in a way it's a nostalgic renewal of the first bowl game of the Devaney-Osborne era at the Gotham Bowl. If this game resembles that game at all, we're in for one heck of a good game.

"Miami had a great passer in that game in George Mira and reportedly now they've got a fine passer in their freshman quarterback and passing teams have had a history of making it interesting for us this season.

"I guess ultimately we've got enough offensive firepower and with the national championship probably riding on the outcome, I don't think the big prize will get away this time. **Nebraska 35, Miami 17.**"

The Huskers say...

Huskers Illustrated

"The Orange Bowl Committee couldn't be happier. They have a true national championship game for their golden anniversary classic. Top-ranked, highfalutin, record-breaking Nebraska, the home team, vs. upstart, youthful No. 5 hometown Miami, the visitor.

"Both teams figure they have destiny riding on their shoulder pads. Nebraska has a veteran offense that has been preparing for this moment for three years. Its defense has risen up and gotten nasty when it had to. The Huskers have not lost in 22 games and only once in three years with Turner Gill in the saddle. Gill will mount up for the final time in Miami.

"The Hurricanes will be the guys wearing the white hats for the locals and most of the national TV audience in this one. They have a bunch of freshmen among the two-deeps, including quarterback Bernie Kozar, a second-year yearling. The Miami winning string is 10 deep after an opening loss.

"Both teams earned the right to face off in the biggie by going down to the final seconds on the road before their last game was decided — the Hurricanes edging Florida State on a field goal and the Huskers holding off Oklahoma.

"Both have showed they can handle pressure. Miami's forte is its get-after-it defense, but it is unlikely the Hurricanes will get after it any more than Oklahoma did. The Huskers scored four times in that one. The major question is, can Miami score four times on Nebraska?

"Miami doesn't have the quick striking capabilities of an Oklahoma, but it can deal the Blackshirts fits with its short passing game. Not enough, though, to score more than two or three times.

"Look for another Nebraska-Oklahoma-style game, probably not more than a touchdown or so difference. This one will be decided on experience. Nebraska has it, with three straight visits to the Orange Bowl. The stadium is Miami's home turf, but this won't be the usual home game, not when a national title is on the line. Destiny says **Nebraska 31, Miami 21.**"

Steve Doyle
Orlando Sentinel

"It's pretty much the matchup between the dominating ground-oriented offense of Nebraska against the defense of Miami. I don't really expect the Miami team to be awed by Nebraska, although the Cornhuskers are one of the most dominating teams in college football history.

"The off time before the Orange Bowl will allow the Miami team to get some of its defensive injuries healed. Also, the campus, the city and everyone associated with the University of Miami program are at an emotional peak right now.

"Therefore we expect it to be a very tense, emotional football game where the score will be closer than most Nebraska followers will expect."

Christine Brennan
Miami Herald

"The 1984 Orange Bowl is the classic David and Goliath matchup, played on David's turf. Miami is smaller, less experienced, has less depth, less talent and less tradition, and is younger than Nebraska. It looks like a rerun of almost every Nebraska game this year — the classic mismatch.

"But Miami has nothing to lose and everything to gain. The Hurricanes, who start only a handful of highly recruited players, have outplayed bigger and stronger teams this season, i.e., Purdue (35-0), Notre Dame (20-0) and West Virginia (20-3).

"And emotion is squarely in Miami's corner. This is the finest moment in Miami history, and one of the city's greatest times in recent memory. The city is looking at Miami's invitation to the Orange Bowl (where UM has lost just two games in five years) as a chance to rewrite three years of bad publicity — riots, boatlifts of Cubans and Haitians, crime, drugs.

"This is what the Cornhuskers will be facing January 2."

Charlie Nobles
Miami News

"I think it's going to be a good game. Miami's strength is its defense, and they'll have two of their best defensive players back off of the injured list.

"I think they'll be psyched up beyond belief with the home crowd, and I'm sure they have due respect for Nebraska which has done some unbelievable things. One thing Nebraska has got to overcome is, they've stunk it up in bowl games the last seven or eight years.

"Miami's got a freshman quarterback you won't believe is a freshman when you see him play. He's big and he throws well, but his one liability is that he isn't very mobile.

"I just voted for the Heisman Trophy, and I voted for Rozier first and (Bernie) Kozar (the Miami quarterback) third. Maybe that smacks of hometownism, but he's had a great year. This season he passed the season touchdown record set last year by Jim Kelly, and he broke the season yardage set by George Mira, so he's already whipped two guys who went on to play pro football.

"I look for a decent game. Nebraska should win, but I think it'll be worth watching. I'd say Miami's got an outside chance of winning, which is better than no chance at all. I think it'll be 27-24 one way or the other."

Mike Babcock
Lincoln Journal-Star

"It was nice while it lasted, but the party's over for Miami on January 2. In the Orange Bowl, Miami will be confronted by "Hurricane Nebraska," more than a tropical storm. **Nebraska 45, Miami 17.**"

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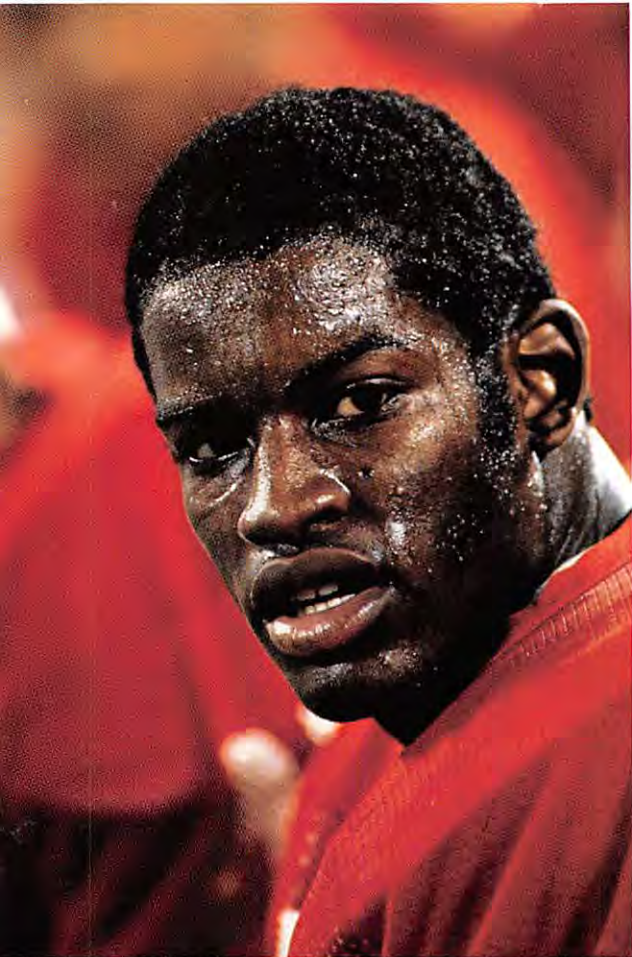






...The Last Hurrah

Mike Rozier heads out of the tunnel for his final introduction to an adoring Memorial Stadium crowd. Rozier bowed out with a Nebraska single-game rushing record of 285 yards as he and 18 other seniors exited with a 67-13 frolic over Kansas.



Turner Gill

Rare Class Was A Product Of NU Land Of Opportunity

Nineteen seniors who won three Big Eight championships say their final farewells to Memorial Stadium supporters.

By Randy York

For 19 Nebraska seniors, "The Last Hurrah" came between 2:40 and 2:45 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, 1983. It was the last time they would walk down the tunnel underneath Nebraska's South Stadium and into a sea of red on game day.

The scene before the NU-Kansas game has been a Cornhusker tradition for decades. But this one was different. This one was special. This one was for the most explosive offensive team college football has ever seen.

And fittingly, the last four players introduced to another sellout crowd were guard Dean Steinkuhler, wingback Irving Fryar, I-back Mike Rozier and quarterback Turner Gill.

As those four legends waited for that last hurrah, time stood still. A kaleidoscope of memories were frozen in the minds of Nebraska players, coaches and fans.

As reality splashed all over the stadium, a thought hit at least one writer in the press box. This team of satisfied superstars was a freakish thing that probably only could have happened in Nebraska...Land of Opportunity.

There was Steinkuhler, an offensive guard who couldn't even make all-conference on an eight-man team in tiny Sterling (Neb.) High School, yet was favored to win the Outland Trophy.

There was Fryar, the country's most explosive receiver who was a relatively obscure tight end in high school at Mount Holly, N.J., who would become only the second

player in college football history to rush for 2,000 yards in one season.

And there was Gill, a remarkable leader who quarterbacked only one loss in college despite playing quarterback only one year in high school in Fort Worth, Tex.

"Looking back, clear back four years ago, I don't think anyone could have dreamed all this would be happening," Gill said. "I was not highly recruited, really. Some big schools wanted me, but they wanted me as a defensive back. Coach (Tom) Osborne was the only coach who wanted me as a quarterback."

Sometimes, in the fast and furious race to a national championship, Gill believes there is a tendency to forget the unlikely elements in the foundation.

"I wasn't the only one who wasn't heavily recruited," Gill said. "Mike and Irving weren't highly recruited, either. They were two great athletes in New Jersey, waiting to be discovered."

Every time Gill thinks about it, he sees irony. "Why did I leave Texas to come to Nebraska? Why did they leave New Jersey to come to Nebraska?" he asked. "What did Coach Osborne see that other coaches didn't see? Why did we like him? Why did he like us?"

Although Gill thinks the answer is Osborne's ability "to judge character and talent as well as anybody," Nebraska's head coach refuses to take all the credit.

"Basically," Osborne said, "Frank Solich



Pat Borer



Tim Brungardt



Monte Engebretson

ran across both Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar while looking at other people. He had a good eye for talent. When we saw the film, we knew they were both great athletes."

They were great athletes who lived right under the nose of Penn State Coach Joe Paterno, who admitted he lost track of both Rozier and Fryar before he had any idea how great either New Jersey native really was.

Gill also had greatness written all over his jersey. But most football coaches thought that greatness would end up on a baseball field, if it didn't roam in someone's secondary.

Fortunately, for Nebraska, Gill was an immediate success, stepping into a starting role against Oklahoma and Clemson as a sophomore, he's been steering Nebraska's ship over smooth waters ever since.

In his first 30 starts, the only setback Gill was forced to endure was the controversial, 27-24 last-second loss at Penn State in 1982.

Gill is the unflappable influence on a virtually unstoppable team. He is the straw that stirs the drink of the most diversified offense this side of the Dallas Cowboys.

To pull the trigger on that kind of weaponry, Gill had to sacrifice many of his individual talents for the sake of the team. If his golden arm was not always showcased for

the benefit of the professional scouts, so be it.

"I just want to be known as a winner," he said. "I couldn't care less about the stats or being an All-American. All I want is to win a national championship."

Gill's primary mission was to blend his talents with Rozier, Fryar and fullback Mark Schellen, an unbelievably strong and remarkably fast fullback who walked on from the small Nebraska town of Waterloo.

"Getting people together like that only could have happened at Nebraska," said offensive tackle Scott Raridon. "It would have created problems anywhere else. All four of those guys will make the pros, and we've kept them all happy with one football."

Raridon, a future pro himself from Mason City, Iowa, believes that happiness is rooted in an honest recruiting policy. "They were all told nothing would be given to them," he said. "They were just told that if they worked hard, they might have a shot at a national championship."

Nothing more, nothing less. That's the way the system works at Nebraska. "That's why, if you ever see another great backfield like that, I hope it happens here," Raridon said. "At one time, Turner and Mike and Irving were all legitimate Heisman Trophy candidates. But they were all team players first.

That's why all the fans loved 'em and all their teammates respected them."

Raridon doesn't have to struggle for words when asked what he would remember about each of the four backs who played behind him.

"When I think of Turner Gill, I think of leadership," he said. "He's such a great leader, he doesn't even know how great he is. It's his attitude. It's just the way he carries himself. He's not a rah-rah type, but he always gets everyone behind him."

"When I think of Mike Rozier, I think of the way he punches people in the head when he runs," Raridon said. "He throws that forearm and knocks defensive players right on their backs. I don't care how many moves he has. That's what I like to see day after day, game after game."

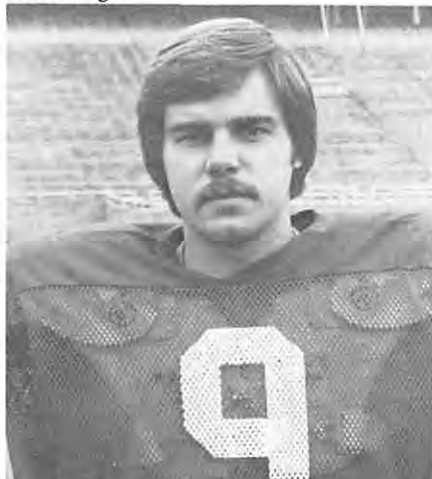
"When I think of Irving Fryar, I think of his vicious blocking," Raridon said. "We'll watch films and see Turner scrambling around and all of a sudden, out of nowhere, comes Irving. He hits the guy so hard, he just disappears from the screen. He's a great receiver, a great runner and a great blocker."

"When I think of Mark Schellen, I think of amazing strength," Raridon said. "Strength carried him into the backfield. When you say his name, you think of Mighty Mouse as

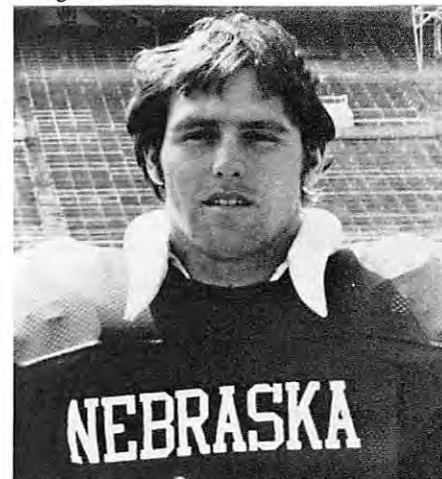
Irving Fryar



Mark Hagerman



Doug Herrmann



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much as Robert Newhouse. People still don't know how strong that guy really is. He can fully squat 800 pounds. You can't even get that many 45-pound plates on the bar. Imagine someone putting that much weight on his back and going all the way to the floor and back up. That's how strong that guy is."

Strength, though, is just part of the amazing success story written by this unlikely offensive backfield. If Osborne had to use just one word to describe the explosiveness, it would be speed.

The Cornhuskers have the speed to run over you and around you. They have the speed to pass over you and pass around you. "Speed is a lot of our success," Osborne said. "I don't know if there's ever been a starting offensive backfield as fast as ours."

With :04.23 speed in the 40, Fryar is the fastest. "Hardly anyone in football is as fast as he is," Osborne said. "Outside of pro football, I don't know who it would be. You can see it on the field. You're going to have to go somewhere to find that kind of acceleration. That kind of speed...you just can't replace it."

Fryar is the fastest player in Nebraska history and Schellen, with :04.31 speed in the 40, is the second fastest. Frank Broyles, the color commentator for ABC's national telecast of Nebraska's 34-13 win over Missouri, left Columbia, shaking his head. "They tell me Schellen actually outran Fryar in some drills," Broyles said. "To me, that's just amazing."

Gill and Rozier aren't blessed with blazing speed, but both have been clocked at :04.45 in the 40. For both players, that speed is extremely deceptive.

"I know Mike Rozier isn't noted for his speed," Raridon said. "He's not our fastest back. But when he has to have it, it's there. I still think of that long touchdown run at Missouri this year. He just outran everybody to the end zone. That was more than :04.5 speed and it came from somewhere."

Gill, the best running quarterback in Nebraska history, helped the Huskers feast on the option for three seasons with his ability to run and pass. He also gave Nebraska's offense one of its most important, yet least publicized weapons...the fake.

"It's hard to follow the football when he's in there," Osborne said of Gill, the master mechanic in a masterful offense. "Deception is a lot of our offense."

But as much as Gill would like to credit himself for the execution, he said he can't.

"It goes along with the talent we have and the respect our opponents have for that talent," Gill said. "They have to respect Rozier on the sweep and the tight end coming across the middle before they worry about me running around the end."

According to Rozier, "sometimes I take the pressure off Turner. Sometimes, he takes it off me. And sometimes, Fryar and Schellen take it off both of us."

According to Schellen, "we have so many weapons and they all work because Turner makes 'em work. He makes our offense a machine and he's the one pulling the lever. We're just his bodyguards."

Schellen thinks Gill's relaxed confidence keys the attack as much as his deft ball-handling. "He just has a way with the football," Schellen said. "He looks over the whole situation and his mind is geared to one thing — getting the play done right. He never falls apart."

That confidence is predicated on experience and knowledge of the offense.

"Turner's been doing it so long, it's like clockwork now," Fryar said. "We're so used to half the stuff we do, we could almost do it with our eyes closed. Turner's fakes are good because they're natural. He's been doing 'em for four years. Watch the films and see what happens. He always draws a couple of defensive guys when he doesn't even have the ball."

It's another example of Gill being a quarterback whose value stretches beyond his statistics.

"He's got the speed, the quickness, the arm, the running ability, the leadership, the poise, the knowledge and experience," Osborne said.

"He makes the play when you have to have it."

For that reason, Osborne envisions Gill in the NFL.

"If somebody looks at Turner without any preconceived ideas, if somebody believes in him and gives him a chance, there's no doubt



Mike Keeler



Nate Mason



Brad Muehling

in my mind that he can play in the NFL," Osborne said.

If Gill chooses pro football over pro baseball, the Huskers easily could have six offensive starters drafted in the first three rounds of the NFL with Gill, Schellen and Raridon joining projected first-rounders Rozier, Fryar and Steinkuhler.

No wonder one Kansas City writer called Nebraska's more than 50-point-a-game offense "The Greatest Show on Turf."

Jim Murray, the nationally prominent columnist for *The Los Angeles Times*, claims to have heard one football coach say, "Nebraska is not a team so much as it's God's punishment for our sins. It's not a squad, it's a horde. It's not the Four Horsemen, it's Apocalypse Now. It's Old Testament wrath."

Rozier, of course, is the star of the show. He was, after all, just about everyone's choice for the Heisman Trophy. Typically, however, he preferred to break that trophy up into three parts. "Turner will get the head, Irving will get the arms and I'll get the legs," Rozier said.

And what about the offensive line? "They get the heart," Rozier said.

"One thing about Mike Rozier. He gives the line credit for everything he does," Stein-

kuhler said. "It's a big thrill for us that he set all those records this year. We take a lot of pride in our rushing at Nebraska. He's put us on the map, but he knows he hasn't done it on his own."

Indeed, Rozier claims Nebraska's tradition for cranking quality offensive lines off the assembly line is what drew him to Lincoln in the first place.

"I don't care how great a back you are, you have to have those guys doing the job up front," he said. "When we try to recruit a great back this year, I want to help. Wherever the guy's from, I'll tell him straight out that this is a great program and a great place to live. Two years ago, I couldn't have said that because I didn't know any better. But I can say it now."

"I owe Nebraska more than they owe me," Rozier said. "I've grown up here. I've matured."

Rozier remembers "when I first got here, I had to call home Friday nights before every game, whether it was home or away. Last year, I was better. But I was still homesick. If we played a road game, I'd make sure I called home before we got back to Lincoln. This year, I still call Camden, but I wait until I get back. I look at Lincoln a lot different now. I can see why people like to live here."

Rozier still insists his favorite run at Nebraska was a 93-yard run on a pitch play at Kansas State as a sophomore. "That was the first long run I broke in college football," he said. "The hole was wide open. I remember thinking if the line kept blocking like that, I was going to gain a lot of yards. They haven't let me down yet."

The tribute works both ways. "Mike Rozier made us work harder," Raridon said. "With a back like him, we knew if he didn't get his yards, people were going to know where to point. It's fun to block for a guy who averages seven yards a carry."

While Rozier brought national fame to Camden, N.J., his success helped pave the way for more national fame at the opposite end of the spectrum...in tiny Burr, Neb., population:110.

Burr, located 12 miles northeast of Sterling and 15 miles southwest of Syracuse, expected to ride Steinkuhler's success into the NCAA record book.

A consensus All-American honor for Steinkuhler would give Burr the honor of being the smallest All-American hometown in modern college football history. Burr was expected to replace Green Bank, West Virginia (population: 115), the hometown of 1955 West Virginia All-American tackle

Wade Praeuner



Scott Raridon



Dave Ridder

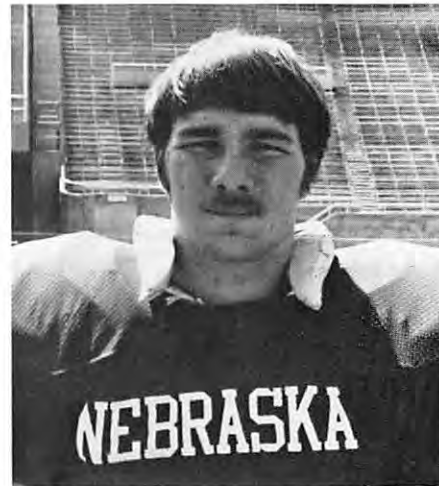




Mike Rozier



Mark Schellen



John Sherlock

Bruce Bosley.

"I remember looking at film in the hallway of that little old school in Sterling," recalled Clete Fischer, NU's veteran offensive line coach who recruited Steinkuhler. "He was a big fullback, playing eight-man football. We thought he'd be a good blocker because he was always looking for somebody to block."

Steinkuhler is proud of his small-town heritage. "I hope I give other kids in other small towns a flicker of hope," he said. "I'm proud of where I came from. I want them to be proud of where they come from. I want them to know there's always room for the small-town kid in a big-time program."

Tom Osborne, who was willing to gamble on a scholarship for Steinkuhler, liked the character of the athlete he recruited.

"We thought Dean had potential," Osborne admitted. "But in no way could we have projected what he's become. You just don't expect a kid from Burr, Nebraska to develop into an All-American."

But it happened. And that's why Steinkuhler got every bit as big a cheer in his last home game as Gill, Rozier and Fryar.

Here's Nebraska's 1983 senior class at a glance:

Pat Borer, 5-10, 190, fullback, Lincoln,

Ricky Simmons



Neb. (Lincoln High) — Walkon spent his entire career in obscurity, rushing three times for 11 yards as a junior and three times for 21 yards as a senior. Despite lack of playing time, Borer played important role with NU scout team, helping Husker defense prepare for upcoming opponents on a week-to-week basis.

Tim Brungardt, 5-11, 210, fullback, Norfolk, Neb. (Catholic) — Another hard-working walkon who was willing to sacrifice personal goals for team goals. Was a valuable three-year back-up at both I-back and fullback and a special teams demon. Career rushing totals of 72 attempts for 379 yards and four touchdowns do not reflect his overall value to the team.

Monte Engebretson, 6-1, 220 tight end, Hastings, Neb. — He probably ranks as the most pleasant individual surprise of the 1983 season. Nebraska's No. 4 tight end as a junior, he stepped into the starting role and performed admirably, especially as a blocker. Holds Big Eight position record with :04.5 speed in the 40.

Irving Fryar, 6-0, 200, wingback Mount Holly, N.J. (Rancocas Valley) — Considered the nation's most explosive all-purpose runner and most dangerous re-

ceiver, he threatened the Big Eight single-season record for average yards per reception. Most important contribution was seven-catch, two-touchdown day against Missouri despite battling flu.

Turner Gill, 6-0, 190, quarterback, Fort Worth, Tex. (Arlington Heights) — Do-everything quarterback went into this year's Oklahoma game, having directed Huskers to 29 wins in 30 games. "Our whole offense was built around Turner," said Mike Rozier. "Turner is the most effective quarterback we've ever had," said Tom Osborne.

Mark Hagerman, 5-10, 190, kicker, Ainsworth, Neb. — Although he never became Nebraska's top kicker, he always kept the competition keen with a consistent performance on a daily basis in practice. Coach rewarded him with 14 extra point opportunities. He converted 10.

Doug Herrmann, 6-4, 275, defensive tackle, Custer, S.D. — A classic example of an athlete's willingness to change position, if it will benefit himself and the team. Herrmann came to Nebraska as a fullback and tight end before switching to defense. A part-time starter in three lettered seasons, he wore a Black Shirt throughout 1983.

Mike Keeler, 6-4, 245, defensive

Dean Steinkuhler



Mike Tranmer



tackle, Omaha, Neb. (Burke) — When surgeons removed a malignant tumor from his lower abdomen during his junior season, NU coaches did not expect him to return for his senior season. Coaches and teammates respected his determination, especially when he played most of his senior season as a captain with a painful neck injury.

Nate Mason, 6-0, 205, quarterback, Greenville, Tex. — Even though he is the fastest quarterback in Nebraska history, he spent most of his career in the shadow of Turner Gill, but accepted his fate in the true spirit of sportsmanship and team play. One of the best overall athletes on the team, he was particularly dangerous as a runner.

Brad Muehling, 6-0, 220, center, Lincoln, Neb. (Southeast) — Although he doesn't rank as a bona fide pro prospect, Muehling was the Brad Johnson of the '83 Huskers. Despite playing behind Dave Rimington, Johnson was effective and valuable backup for Rimington in '82. Muehling fulfilled the same role for Mark Traynowicz this season.

Wade Praeuner, 5-11, 200, defensive end, Battle Creek, Neb. — Another walk-on who spent three surprisingly productive seasons in a Cornhusker uniform. A spot starter in 1981 and '82, he started '83 as a monster back before switching back to his former position to supply depth and experience. Strength and speed were his greatest assets.

Scott Raridon, 6-3, 280, offensive tackle, Mason City, Iowa — Although he will go down as a one-year starter, that doesn't do justice to his contributions. As a key back-up on the Huskers' 12-1 team as a junior, Raridon actually played almost as much time as a starter. This year, his consistency has attracted the attention of the pros.

Dave Ridder, 6-1, 205, defensive end, West Point, Neb. (Central Catholic) — He started first three games for the Huskers as a junior before relinquishing that job to Bill Weber. Although Ridder remained a back-up in '83, coaches considered the hardworking walk-on a true leader and one of the Huskers' best pass rushers. He was also the equivalent of a starter, wearing a Black Shirt throughout the season.

Mike Rozier, 5-11, 210, I-back, Camden, N.J. (Woodrow Wilson) — Sports writers ran out of superlatives, and coaches ran out of adjectives early in the 1983 season as Rozier assaulted the record book like no other player in the Big Eight Conference history. Tom Osborne says, very simply, that "Mike Rozier is the greatest back I've ever seen."

Mark Schellen, 5-10, 225, fullback, Waterloo, Neb. — Even though he was the only member of NU's all-senior backfield who was not considered a Heisman Trophy candidate, rival coaches agree he was an equal threat in the offense. As Iowa State Coach Jim Criner said, "If you forget about him, the next thing you know he's 60 yards downfield."

John Sherlock, 6-1, 260, offensive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 41

Cornhusker's Football is No.1



NEBRASKA



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Dear Dave: Please Come To Our School: NU Won

The letters are packed in a box now, and the Huskers have the 'Big Man' to change the game and fill the house.

By Mike Babcock

Dave Hoppen got letters. He got stacks and stacks of letters.

During one two-month stretch of his recruitment as a college basketball player, Hoppen received at least two or three letters a day, every day the mail was delivered. As the time approached for him to make a decision on what college he would attend, the letters came in greater numbers. Many were from the same people.

"I'm sure there were at least 10 or more people who wrote me two or three letters a piece," Hoppen said, settling in to tell his story.

For awhile, he enjoyed receiving the mail. What high school kid wouldn't? Every letter told him how important he was, how much in demand his skills as a basketball player were.

Most of the letters came from fans, and most of the fans were from Nebraska. Most said the same general thing in a similar way: "Dear Dave, please come to our school. We really want you on our teams. You're all that's missing for us to be successful — a 'big man.'"

Hoppen is within an inch of being 7-feet tall.

"The first two weeks, it was super," said Hoppen.

Soon, however, the volume of mail began to overwhelm him. It was enough to leave

the postman bent over from the weight. When letters began arriving five and six a day, "I wondered what the mailman thought," Hoppen said. "He'd been our mailman for a long time."

"But I don't know if he connected all those letters with my being a basketball player. He never said anything, and I never asked."

Each personal letter looked the same, like so much junk mail to be discarded without being opened. Though Hoppen tried, not all of the letters were opened. Still, he knows what each one said.

"Dear Dave: Please come to our school."

The postmark usually indicated what the name of "our school" was. Most were from Nebraska, though a few of those were sent by Notre Dame boosters living, primarily, in and around Omaha.

Hoppen estimates that between "15 to 20" Fighting Irish fans and Notre Dame alums from the Omaha area regularly sent him letters.

He got letters from as far away as Kentucky. In the Big Eight Conference region, fans from Missouri, Kansas and Colorado occasionally dropped him a line.

Cornhusker fans were persistent, but they were never bothersome.

Not really. Hoppen says he never felt overly pressured into accepting Nebraska's scholarship offer.

Moe says his soph pivot is keeping the ball up better

What pressure there was came near the end, after it was clear Ron Kellogg would go to Kansas and Bill Jackman was headed for Duke, that Kerry Trotter and Vic Lazzeretti both preferred Marquette. All were from Nebraska, members of a rare class of high school seniors.

Nebraska got Mike Martz of Beatrice and James Moore of Omaha Burke from that class. But Hoppen, the "big man" at Omaha Benson, was Cornhusker head coach Moe Iba's No. 1 priority.

"When the fans saw everybody else leaving, they got worried that Nebraska wouldn't get anybody," Hoppen said.

The intensity of the letter-writing campaign picked up.

After awhile, people would stop him on the street and say, "Hey, I sent you that letter. Remember?" Even though Hoppen didn't always remember, he knew what the letter must have said.

"Dear Dave, please come to our school."

None of the letters was thrown away. Marge Hoppen, Dave's mom, saved every one. They're still stored in a large box in the Omaha home where Hoppen grew up. The box contains more than 200 letters from fans, each a reminder of Hoppen's recruiting experience.

Over \$50 worth of cancelled postage brought them there, and that's not even counting the letters from the schools. Hoppen started receiving those when he was a

high school sophomore.

He estimates at one time or another, more than 100 colleges and universities mailed him information about their basketball programs.

"I probably got tired of getting letters," said Hoppen. He no longer remembers for sure because that was long ago.

To be exact, a little over one year.

The schools' coaches supplemented their regular mailings with telephone calls. Some coaches called once a week.

Others "called two or three times a week," Hoppen said.

Like the letters, the telephone calls were fun at first, and "they never really bothered me to any extent; mostly it made me feel good that so many people wanted me to come to their schools," he said.

Even so, the phone calls started sounding all alike: "Hello Dave, please come to our school. We really want you on our team."

Finally, whenever the telephone rang, Dave and his mother would look at each other, neither one wanting to answer. They knew the call wasn't from a friend. It was always a coach or a recruiter.

"There was nothing you could do," said Hoppen, who always ended up answering the call because he knew it was for him. "My mom and I used to joke a lot about the phone call. We thought it was weird that I could be so wanted by so many people, that I was so popular."

Hoppen considered recruiting serious business. He never led anyone on, and he went about choosing a school carefully and systematically, narrowing his list to six schools during the summer before his senior year at Benson and indicating to each school that he wanted to make his official campus visit before the basketball season began.

"I wanted to get it over with," Hoppen said.

The six schools he chose, from a preliminary list of "10 or 12," were Nebraska, Notre Dame, Missouri, Kentucky, Colorado and Kansas.

In retrospect, there may have been two or three other schools that should have been on his list, but sooner or later the decision must be made. According to Hoppen, one of the most difficult aspects of recruiting "is telling a school you're not going to make a visit."

Hoppen was never tempted to throw in an exotic recruiting trip, just for fun. "A lot of guys will do that, go to Hawaii or even Alaska. But I didn't want to take advantage of anybody. I didn't want anybody to think they were a front runner when they weren't."

He seriously considered every school he visited.

Even though he narrowed his list and made that list known to every coach who contacted him, Hoppen continued to receive phone calls.

"It was like putting a classified ad in the

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newspaper and then the first person who calls buys what you're selling. You keep getting call after call, but there's nothing you can do to stop them."

"Hello Dave, please come to our school."

Of the schools he turned down, Hoppen enjoyed his visit to Notre Dame the most. Notre Dame "was really big on the historic aspects of the school, and it has a scenic campus" he said.

"I liked it a lot." Looking back, Hoppen says Notre Dame finished second on his list, ahead of Missouri.

What Hoppen liked even better about the Fighting Irish than their tradition and their scenic campus, though, was the fact that they needed a player of his height who could step in immediately.

"That was big thing, being able to play right away."

Providing he could develop quickly, Nebraska also offered him that opportunity, plus the advantage the Cornhuskers had over Notre Dame was, their home, the Devaney Sports Center, was much closer to Omaha than South Bend, Ind. Hoppen's main concerns in choosing a school were (1) being able to play as a freshman, and (2) being close enough to Omaha that his mom could attend some games.

His father, Marv Hoppen, died during the fall of Dave's ninth-grade year, and the members of the Hoppen family — his mother — and his sisters, Kim and Kelly — are extremely close.

Marge Hoppen never told her son she wanted him to go to Nebraska, but "I could tell it was her favorite. Each time a coach visited us, we'd sit down and talk, and she'd tell me which ones impressed her.

"I think she was sort of surprised when I picked Nebraska. I wasn't going to tell her before the press conference (at Benson)," Hoppen said. But, of course, he couldn't keep the secret from her.

The official announcement was received with excitement by Nebraska basketball fans, long-deprived of a 'big man.'

That was a long time ago.

To be exact, a little less than two years.

"I think a lot of people in the state were surprised, not shocked but surprised, by my decision simply because Nebraska didn't have the basketball reputation that some of those other schools (recruiting him) have," said Hoppen. "As I look back now, though, even if we hadn't had a good season last year, I'd be happy here.

"The coaching is the best around, and the fans are really supportive. A lot of coaches will promise you a lot."

The Cornhuskers' Moe Iba went beyond a promise.

He helped Hoppen produce as a freshman.

Henry P. Iba is a college basketball legend. During his 36 seasons as head coach at Oklahoma State — formerly Oklahoma A&M — the Aggies won 13 Missouri Valley Conference championships and made six NCAA tournament appearances, including a second-place finish in 1949.

Iba ranks third on the all-time list of coach-

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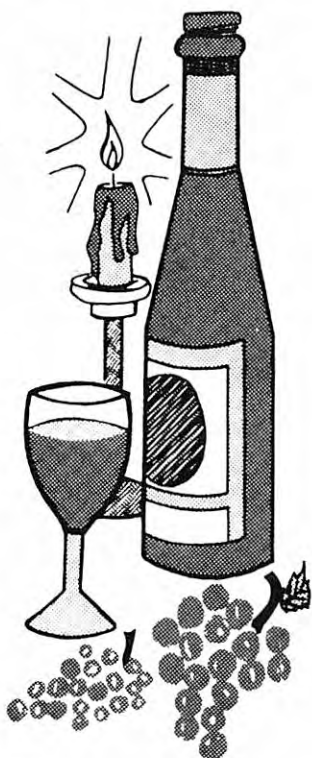
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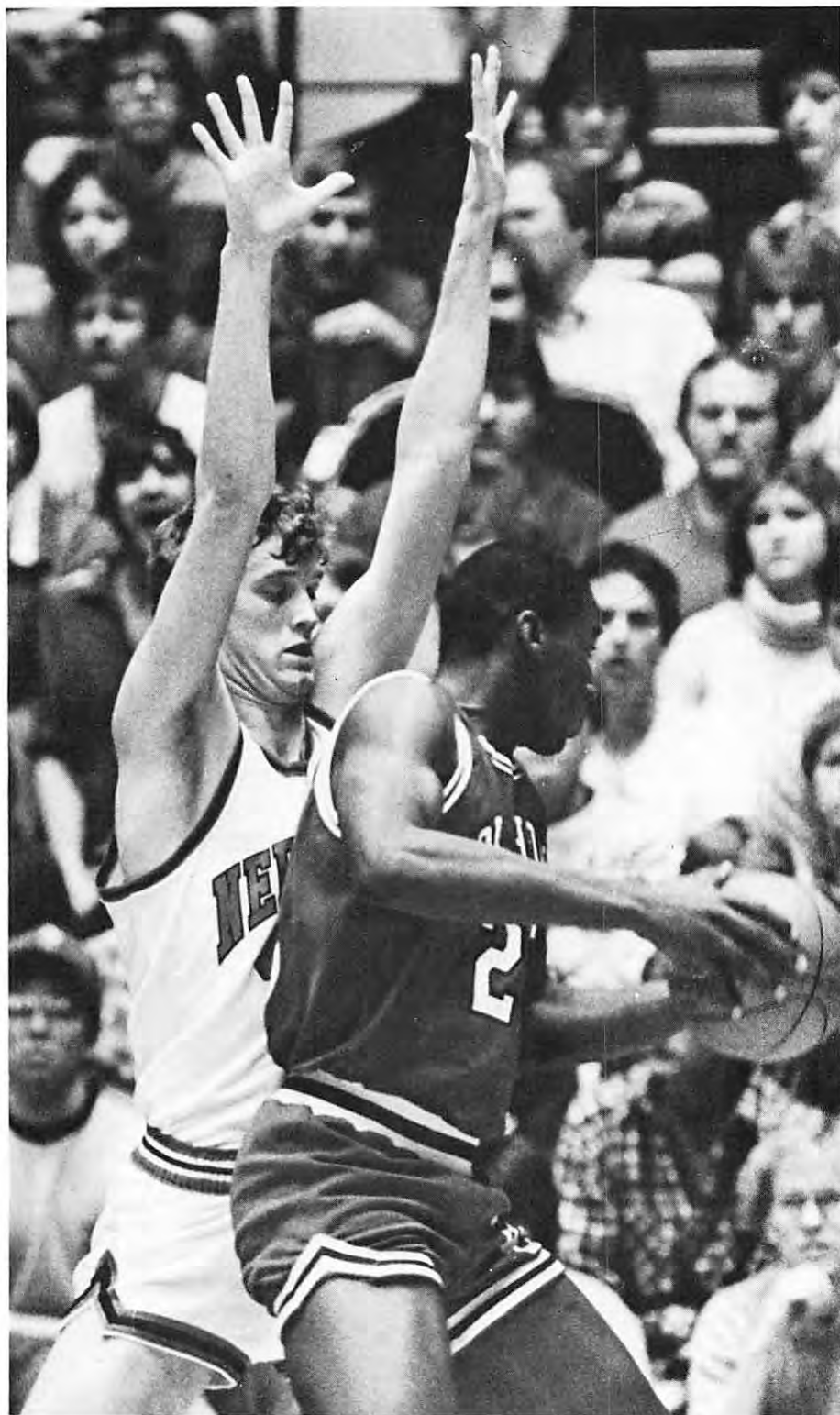
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ing victories (767), behind only Adolph Rupp and Phog Allen.

In 1942, his ninth season at A&M, Iba recruited a 6-11 3/4 center from Jennings, Mo., named Bob Kurland. "Most coaches told me I'd lost my mind." "They said, 'You'll never make a basketball player out of him.' In those days, kids used to run the tall boys away from the playground. They said those big boys were too clumsy.

Hoppen forms a defensive barrier against Oklahoma.

Kurland played as a freshman at Oklahoma A&M.

He was a consensus All-American as a sophomore, junior and senior, taking the Aggies to the NCAA tournament twice. Those same three years, DePaul had a con-

sensus All-American named George Mikan, who stood 6-11.

Iba was looking for someone like Kurland because "I could tell, sooner or later, basketball would be played above the rim.

"Those young men opened the door," Iba said. "They changed the game of basketball; they changed the defenses, because they forced people to try to move them out from under the basket, and they made people better shooters because they opened up the outside.

"I remember when we were in Chicago, playing a tournament, Kurland and Mikan got together and walked down the street. People would look at them and say things (about their height)."

Such tall people were looked on as oddities and often ridiculed in the mid-1940's. "Now, everyone thinks it's great to see a tall person," said Iba. Particularly everyone who coaches basketball.

"Now everybody is hunting for them."

Two years ago, Moe Iba, the son of Henry P. Iba and head basketball coach at Nebraska, went hunting for a tall player. Moe Iba found 6-11 Dave Hoppen, who almost immediately changed the Cornhusker game.

With Hoppen at center, Nebraska posed defensive problems which were more than just his scoring. By drawing attention inside, Hoppen made the Cornhuskers' outside shooters even better. He opened the door.

According to Henry P. Iba, Hoppen already has done things to show what the future holds. "He can rebound it twice. He'll miss a shot, go right back up and put it in; that's a sign he's going to be great."

In the first half of Nebraska's season-ending loss to DePaul, in the semifinals of the National Invitation Tournament, Hoppen was held scoreless, then came back to score 15 points in the second half.

That's another sign of Hoppen's potential greatness, said Iba.

Dave Hoppen always considered "6-4 or 6-5 the ideal height" for a basketball player. Unlike most players, he never desired to be a guard. "A small forward in college would be my choice," he said.

"I'd like to run up and down the court, shooting jump shots. The small forward has about the most freedom of any player."

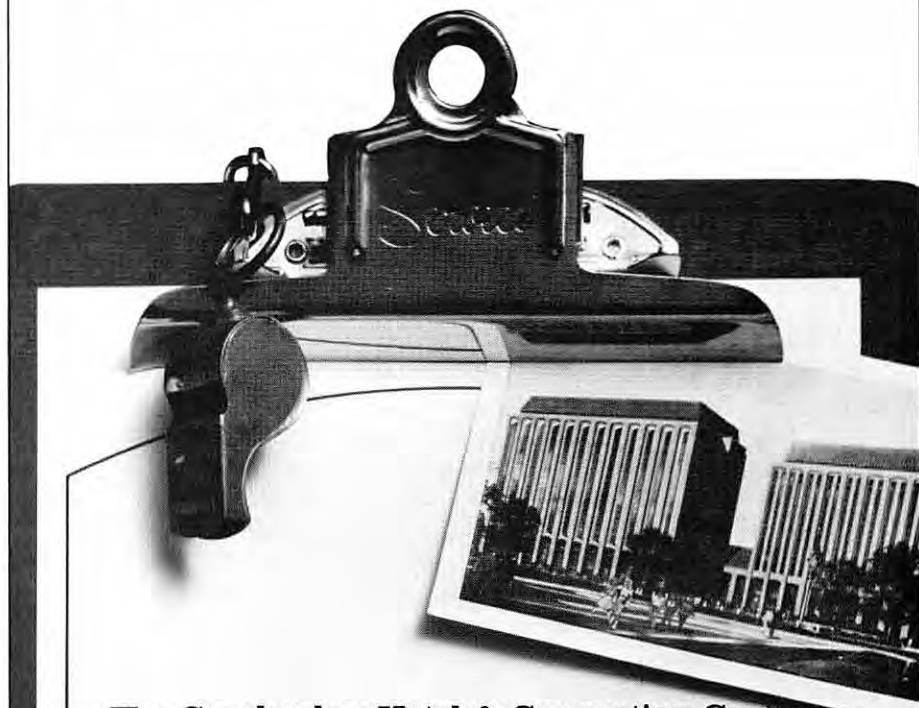
Hoppen is a relative newcomer to basketball. His background in the sport can be traced only as far back as an eighth-grade year during which he and Larry Station, now an All-Big 10 linebacker on the Iowa football team, were teammates sharing time as centers on the Monroe Junior High team. Hoppen averaged "about five points.

"I wasn't clumsy, but I wasn't a very good basketball player, either," said Hoppen, who had improved markedly by the next winter.

Station transferred to King Junior High, and Hoppen no longer shared responsibility as Monroe's starting center. He responded by averaging "20 points a game. I don't know why the change."

Basketball wasn't Hoppen's first love; baseball was, even though "my whole family was sports-oriented, and I usually played

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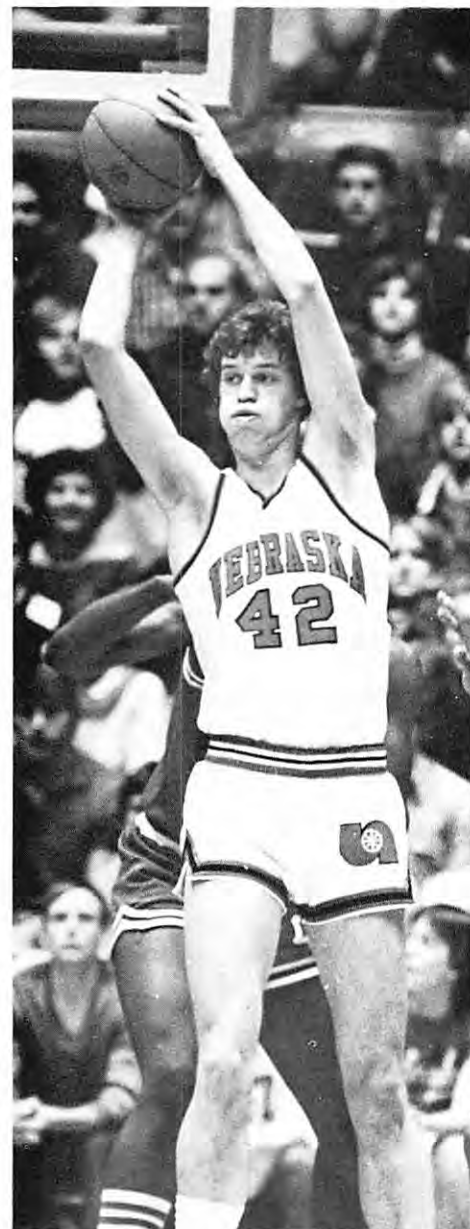
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Henry Iba says Hoppen can rebound it twice.

whatever sport was in season." That's why, in the spring and summer the basketball was put away and Hoppen became a first baseman and pitcher.

Hoppen might have waived longer without choosing between baseball and basketball had it not been for Don Knauss, the head basketball coach at Benson during Hoppen's sophomore and junior years there.

Hoppen, who was 6-3 in the ninth grade, stood 6-7 by the time basketball practice began his sophomore season.

The summer before that sophomore year, Knauss encouraged Hoppen to concentrate on basketball. Three mornings a week,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40

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Hoppen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

Knauss, Hoppen and Curtis Kelly, who was year older than Hoppen, would go to the Benson gymnasium and work on playing under the goal — Hoppen and Kelly, one-on-one, rebounding against each other and shooting hooks.

"It wasn't a lot of fun," Hoppen said. "But it helped."

Kelly, who now is a 6-8 linebacker on the University of Nebraska-Omaha football team, and Hoppen were basketball teammates at Benson for two seasons. They earned a trip to the Nebraska state Class A high school tournament Kelly's senior year.

According to Hoppen, that was the best of his high school teams.

Following his sophomore basketball season, Hoppen planned to go out for the Benson baseball team. Again, Knauss interceded, telling Hoppen he'd be better off spending his time with a basketball, going through the same drills which filled his weekday mornings during the summer.

In addition to the drills, "We'd get seven or eight guys together and scrimmage," said Hoppen, who kept getting calls from the baseball coach, wanting to know where he was.

The basketball season was supposed to be over.

Throughout that time, Hoppen "worked on some of the moves around the basket I still use now. Repetition. You've got to have it."

As a high school junior, Hoppen stood 6-10 and had given up baseball to concentrate on basketball. Even so, he wasn't forced into basketball because of his height. He simply came to a point when he had to make a choice between two sports he enjoyed because there was no way he could succeed in both, beyond a certain level.

"Playing two or even three sports in high school isn't that tough," said Hoppen. "But to be like (Nebraska's) Turner Gill and play both football and baseball, you have to be a phenomenal athlete."

"Because of the tremendous competition at the college level, it's tough enough just being a starter on one team."

Hoppen maintains being tall didn't trap him into being a basketball player. He made the choice. "I've always considered my height an advantage rather than a hindrance," he said.

Moe Iba considers Hoppen's height an advantage. Of that there can be no doubt. As a freshman, who started slowly, Hoppen earned second team All-Big Eight recognition from both major wire services and he was second-team freshman All-American according to Basketball Weekly newspaper.

He started all 32 games in the Cornhuskers' 22-10 season, averaging 13.9 points and

five rebounds per game. Hoppen connected on 52.4-percent of his shots from the field, hit 74.8-percent from the free throw line, and fouled out only six times.

According to Missouri coach Norm Stewart, who tried to recruit Hoppen for the Tigers: "He's one of the outstanding freshmen in the nation. He and Wayman Tisdale (of Oklahoma) are going to have a big impact in the league and in the nation."

According to Colorado coach Tom Apke: "Dave Hoppen is becoming what everybody thought he would become. He's headed for a super career."

Iba would agree with both Stewart and Apke, but the Nebraska coach warns that teams are likely to set their defenses differently this season because of Hoppen. He isn't going to surprise anyone.

"We only had a few teams last year that actually tried to stop him," Iba said. "Dave has learned quite a bit since last season."

"He keeps the ball up better; he's stronger and better at rebounding both offensively and defensively; and he pushes himself harder now than he did a year ago."

Still, "David's a sophomore and he's only 19 years old. Sometimes people might expect too much from him."

The expectation of Nebraska fans are understandable. Hoppen's arrival in Lincoln has had a dramatic impact on the Cornhusker basketball program. For all intents and pur-

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Hoppen helped shape that anticipation.

Everyone knew it would be that way if he came to Nebraska. That's why they wrote the letters. "Dear Dave, please come to our school," the letters said. Hoppen listened, and the rest is a matter of record.

"He's not going to block a lot of shots, but he'll be in the game for 40 minutes. He'll score his 17 points, get a few rebounds, and throw the ball out to people. He's just a good player," said Iba.

Big 8 TV Schedule

Sat., Nov. 26 — Kansas at Houston (CBS, 1:10 p.m.)

Sat., Dec. 10 — Kentucky at Kansas (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Dec. 17 — Kansas State at UNLV (KAB, TBA)

Wed., Dec. 21 — Kansas State at Indiana (KAB, TBA)

Sat., Jan. 7 — Oklahoma at Syracuse (CBS, 1:10 p.m., nationally televised)

Wed., Jan. 11 — Oklahoma at Iowa State (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Jan. 14 — Iowa at Iowa State (KAB, 3:10 p.m.)

Wed., Jan. 18 — Missouri at Kansas (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Jan. 21 — Oklahoma at Kansas State (KAB, 2:10 p.m.)

Tue., Jan. 24 — Oklahoma State at Oklahoma (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Wed., Jan. 25 — NEBRASKA at Kansas (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Jan. 28 — Kansas State at Kansas (KAB, 4:10 p.m.)

Sat., Jan. 28 — Oklahoma at Memphis State (NBC, TBA, nationally)

Tue., Jan. 31 — Kansas at Oklahoma (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Wed., Feb. 1 — Iowa State at Kansas State (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 4 — Missouri at Oklahoma (KAB, 2:10 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 4 — NEBRASKA at Kansas State (KAB, 4:10 p.m.)

Sun., Feb. 5 — Wichita State at Kansas (NBC, 1:10 p.m., nationally)

Wed., Feb. 8 — Iowa State at Colorado (KAB, 9:10 p.m.)

Wed., Feb. 8 — Oklahoma at NEBRASKA (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 11 — NEBRASKA at Missouri (KAB, 2:10 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 11 — Oklahoma State at Colorado (KAB, 4:10 p.m.)

Wed., Feb. 15 — Colorado at Kansas State (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Wed., Feb. 15 — Oklahoma at Oklahoma State (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 18 — Kansas at Missouri (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Wed., Feb. 22 — Oklahoma at Kansas (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Sat., Feb. 25 — Colorado at NEBRASKA (KAB, 3:10 p.m.)

Tue., Feb. 28 — Oklahoma at Missouri (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Thur., March 1 — NEBRASKA at Oklahoma (KAB, 8:10 p.m.)

Seniors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

tackle, Omaha, Neb. (South) — He followed a familiar script in Nebraska's never-ending success story for offensive linemen. Although he was always considered a gifted athlete, he had to wait until his fifth year to become a starter. Arthroscopic knee surgery marred his senior season, but hardly spoiled the fun.

Ricky Simmons, 5-10, 175, split end, Greenville, Tex. — A former high school teammate of Nate Mason, Simmons also spent his Husker career in the shadows of Todd Brown before splitting starting duties this season with Scott Kimball. Although it didn't always show up statiscally, opponents were forced to respect his exceptional speed and fierce blocking.

Dean Steinkuhler, 6-3, 270, offensive guard, Burr, Neb. (Lyons) — NU's offensive line coaches insist Steinkuhler is the best downfield blocker in Nebraska history.

Mike Tranmer, 5-11, 230, middle guard, Craig, Neb. (Lyons) — NU Defensive Coordinator Charlie McBride not only never expected him to become a co-captain. He never expected him to play. "He was too small and too slow. He's a self-made man," McBride said. Tranmer is the only non-scholarship captain in modern Cornhusker football history.

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MAX EMFINGER'S 1983 Pre-Season Top Selections

(Editor's Note: These rankings are in order by position and the vital stats are believed to be the most accurate in the country minus 2% error.)
*Super athletes may play another position in college.

Quarterback

1 Rodney Peete*	6-2	185	4.5
2 Bob Cernak	6-2½	195	4.7
3 Clinton Reynolds	6-3	200	4.6
4 John Thomas	6-2	185	4.7
5 Wayne Johnson	6-4	180	4.65
6 Percy Moorman*	5-11	180	4.5
7 Bobby Walden	6-2	190	4.6
8 Tom Byrne	6-4	205	4.8
9 Vince Sutton	6-1	195	4.7
10 Todd Randlemy	6-2	192	4.9
11 Brendan McCracken*	6-2	205	4.6
12 Keith Green*	6-3	180	4.7
13 Frank Smith*	6-0	190	4.5
14 Rodney Williams	6-2	195	4.7
15 Raymond Roundtree*	6-1½	175	4.45
16 Charlie Lewis*	6-3	205	4.6

Shawnee Mission South, Kansas
Lockport, Illinois
Palm Bay, Florida
Milledgeville Baldwin, Georgia
Columbus Hardaway, Georgia
Danville Washington, Virginia
Bainbridge, Georgia
Terre Nova Pacifica, California
Lagrange, Georgia
Chamblee Peachtree, Georgia
Los Angeles Loyola, California
West Rome, Georgia
Alexandria Mt. Vernon, Virginia
Irmo, South Carolina
South Aiken, South Carolina
Houston Yates, Texas

Running Back

1 RB Ryan Knight	6-2	200	4.45
2 FB Craig Hayward	6-2	235	4.6
3 RB Thurman Thomas*	5-10	180	4.45
4 RB Aaron Jenkins*	6-2	210	4.5
5 RB Gaston Green	5-11	185	4.5
6 FB Kevin Morgan	6-1	210	4.5
7 RB Wayne Denson	6-0	200	4.55
8 RB Cleveland Gary	6-1	190	4.5
9 FB Luis Tate	6-2	206	4.5
10 RB Eric Ball	6-2	200	4.5
11 RB Tony Goss	6-3½	202	4.55
12 FB James Lewison	5-11	227	4.7
13 RB Darryl Harris	6-1	180	4.45
14 RB James Brown*	6-1	190	4.45
15 RB Terry Groggley*	5-10	182	4.45
16 RB Keith Bullock*	6-0	190	4.5

Riverside Rubidoux, California
Passaic, New Jersey
Fl. Bend Willowridge, Texas
Stockton Edison, California
Gardena, California
Dewdlee, Virginia
Norristown, Pennsylvania
Stuart Poncey, Florida
Indy, North Central, Indiana
Ypsilanti, Michigan
Randleman, North Carolina
Central LaFayette, Louisiana
Pomona Garey, California
Cincinnati Princeton, Ohio
Clearwater, Florida
Edgewood, New Jersey

Wide Receiver

1 Tony Jones	6-1	175	4.35
2 Freddie Weyland*	6-2	175	4.45
3 Deshaune Newby	6-5	207	4.55
4 Reggie Ward	5-11	170	4.45
5 Nate McWhorter	6-3	190	4.5
6 Chris Carter	6-3	185	4.5
7 Scott Ankrom*	6-2	190	4.45
8 Spencer Cotton*	5-11	165	4.45
9 Brian Slater	6-4	190	4.6
10 Hughes Suthren*	6-3	175	4.5

Houston Sam Houston, Texas
Gadsden Sansom, Alabama
Suffolk Yeates, Virginia
Long Beach Poly, California
Chattanooga Howard, Tennessee
Middletown, Ohio
San Antonio Jay, Texas
Chicago Loyola, Illinois
Lake Stevens, Washington
Bonner Springs, Kansas

Tight End

1 Alex Higdon	6-5	228	4.6
2 Eric Snelson*	6-4	245	4.6
3 Martin Chesley*	6-4	220	4.65
4 Mike Kovac*	6-4	230	4.7
5 Keith Jackson	6-3	230	4.6
6 Trevor Moin	6-4½	222	4.7

Cincinnati Princeton, Ohio
Antioch, California
Washington Anacostia, D.C.
Cleveland St. Josephs, Ohio
Little Rock Parkway, Arkansas
Sparks Road Nevada

Offensive Line

1 OT David Richards	6-5	290	5.0
2 OG Andy Sinclair	6-5	240	4.9
3 OT David Williams	6-5	265	5.1
4 OG George Mivros	6-2½	255	4.9
5 OT Ed Smith	6-6	250	4.9
6 OG Michael Darnes	6-2½	250	4.9
7 OT Raymond Chevious	6-5	290	5.0
8 OT Craig King	6-6	255	5.1
9 OG Bo Roden	6-3	230	4.9
10 OT Mark Sager	6-5	275	5.1
11 OT Todd Tyne	6-3	260	5.0
12 OG Pat Boykin	6-4	235	4.8
13 OT Sean Stopperich	6-4	265	5.1
14 OT Leroy Simpkins	6-7	280	5.0

Dallas Highland Park, Texas
Huntington Beach Edison, California
Lakeland, Florida
Cedar Shoals, Georgia
Chicago Robeson, Illinois
Miami Beach, Florida
Aiken Silver Bluff, S. Carolina
Shenandoah, New York
Deburn, Texas
North Torrance, California
Lafayette Jefferson, Indiana
Los Angeles Jordan, California
Canon McMillan, Pennsylvania
Newark Vailsburg, New Jersey

Defensive Line

1 DT Malcolm Christi	6-6	278	4.9
2 DT Shane Dypala	6-5	245	4.9
3 DE Ronald Stalworth	6-5	230	4.7
4 DE Matt Dingos	6-6	235	4.9
5 DE Nathaniel Hill	6-4	240	4.7
6 NG Reggie Ware	6-3	246	4.8
7 DT Peter Currendall	6-3	24	4.75
8 DT Richard McCullough	6-6	250	4.9
9 DE Tony Ross	6-6	230	4.8
10 DE Henry Williams	6-4	230	4.8

Jersey City Dickinson, New Jersey
Van Vleet, Texas
Pensacola Woodham, Florida
Birmingham Rice, Michigan
LaGrange, Georgia
Huntsville Butler, Alabama
Elmira Souths de New York
Lora, South Carolina
Moms Community, Illinois
Athens Central, Georgia

Linebacker

1 Frank Stams	6-3½	225	4.7
2 Cedric Fipero	6-2	235	4.65
3 Chris Spelman	6-2	215	4.75
4 Tony Davis	6-3	215	4.6
5 Darrel Gordon	6-3	200	4.65
6 Bo Yates	6-1	205	4.7
7 Dan Wirth	6-4	225	4.75
8 Ray Gracometti	6-5	210	4.7

Alvon St. Vincent St. Mary, Ohio
Lafayette, Louisiana
Massillon Washington, Ohio
Piquemine, Louisiana
Hillside, New Jersey
Lebanon, Oregon
Des Moines Hoover, Iowa
Richmond Salesian, California

Defensive Back

1 FS Johnny Norwood	6-2	180	4.6
2 DB Brandy Wells	6-0	185	4.45
3 SS Randy Thornton	6-4	205	4.55
4 FS Byron LaRkin	6-3	190	4.6
5 CB Brian Washington	6-1	195	4.55
6 CB Ken Mouton	6-2	190	4.5
7 FS John Keller	6-4	200	4.7
8 SS Bradley Acker	6-3	195	4.7
9 FS Charles Washington	6-2	190	4.6

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Montclair, New Jersey
West Jefferson, Louisiana
Cincinnati Moeller, Ohio
Highland Springs, Virginia
Naples, Florida
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Shenandoah, New York
Dallas Spruce, Texas

Talent Chart:

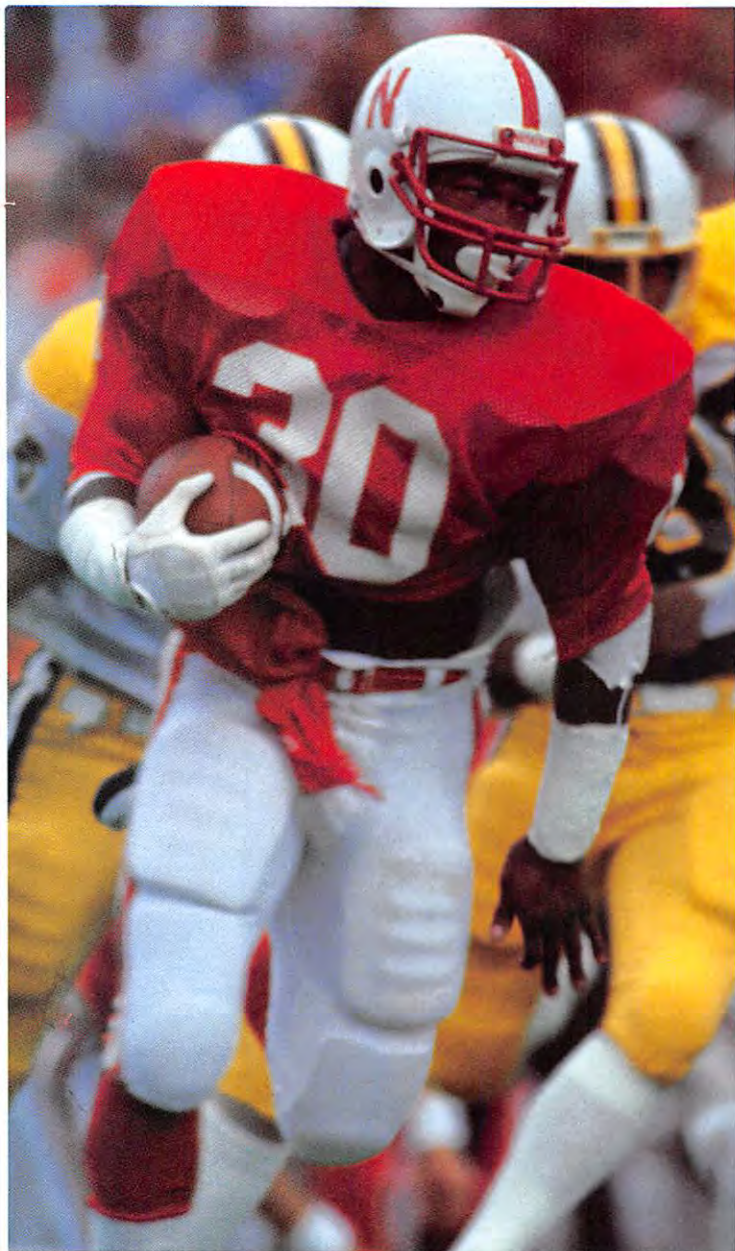
FL-17; CA-13; TX-12; GA-11; NJ-9; VA-8; PA-8; LA-6; IL-5; NY-4; SC-4; NC-3; KS-3; AL-2; OK-2; MI-2; IN-2; AZ-1; IA-1; OR-1; DC-1; AR-1; NV-1; WA-1; TN-1

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A detailed map of the Trail Ridge Ski Area. The map shows a network of trails, including the 'Trail Ridge' and 'Ski Area'. Key features include the 'Trail Ridge' and 'Ski Area' labels, the 'Trail Ridge' and 'Ski Area' labels, the 'Trail Ridge' and 'Ski Area' labels. The map also shows the 'Trail Ridge' and 'Ski Area' labels. The map includes a scale bar and a north arrow. The map is titled 'Trail Ridge Ski Area'.



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Opinions



Ask Tom Osborne

If you have questions for Coach Tom Osborne, write to Huskers Illustrated, Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb., 68501. We reserve the right to select only those questions we feel appropriate.

A newspaper report said a play the Denver Broncos used to beat Pittsburgh, a pass from Steve DeBerg to tight end Ron Egloff, was actually called "Red left-rover short divide-fire pitch-43-T-pull-power trap pass." How does Nebraska's multiple offense terminology compare to the Broncos' play? — Robert Morris, Fort Collins, Colo.

"We don't use that many terms. They have probably twice as many terms as we would have. 'Spread right, 71 fullback flare left, wingback motion' would be about as long as we have.

"We use our split ends to shuttle plays in from the bench, and they do a good job. Of course, that's where the quarterback has to be sharp enough to interpret things. A lot of times, they're able to translate it from a guy who messes it up a little bit."

Being a diehard Husker fan, I'm not one to second-guess one of the best offensive coaches in the country, but I would like to know why Craig Sundberg (junior quarterback) isn't brought into the games (as the first substitute) instead of Nate Mason. For example, would not Craig gain valuable experience against a team like Missouri? This is assuming that since Nate is a senior that Craig is the quarterback of the future. — Don Dunlap, Aurora, Colo.

"Nate has earned the right to be the second quarterback by performance. We have a couple of times this year put Craig in ahead of Nate, but they're both doing well. It wouldn't be fair to Nate. You can't penalize a guy just because he's a senior, and, too, we have to keep Nate fairly sharp in case something happens to Turner Gill.

"It could be just like last year with Bruce Mathison. Bruce was a senior and yet we played him second. When Turner got hurt against Missouri, Bruce went in and played very well."

I noticed that you let Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar play in the second half of the Wyoming and Minnesota games after having a considerable lead at the half. You said it was to keep them sharp, but don't you think it would be wiser to sit them down? I mean, why risk injury to your key weapons when the game is virtually decided? — Mike Rexilius, Davey, Neb.

"How is Mike Rozier going to win the Heisman Trophy is he doesn't play at all the second half? He didn't play in the fourth quarter in all but five games.

"Those three have probably sat out the equivalent of two or three games, plus they've been alternating some. We've had them out of there in the second quarter for a while. Turner doesn't qualify in the NCAA stats because he hasn't passed enough. If he played more, he'd have them. On the other hand, you've got to play the other quarterbacks. I don't know what the answer is."

Why in the Colorado game did we have a bad first half and a good second half? Why in the Kansas State game did we have a good first half and a bad second half? — Monte McMullin, Leigh, Neb.

"If I knew that, I'd be president of the university instead of the football coach. I really don't know. Colorado obviously helped us a lot because they had a lot of turnovers the second half.

"Some of that is due to our opponents. K-State didn't play as well the first half as they did in the second half, and we probably relaxed when we got the lead. Colorado played awfully well the first half. The second half, they kind of just self-destructed."

You were saying that the next Kickoff Classic might not have such a big crowd. Why couldn't that committee set up a deal like they do with the Super Bowl and move it around the country so everybody could get to see it? On second thought, how about letting the previous year's national champion play some team and play it at the champion's stadium? — Leo J. Kauffman, Fairfield Bay, Ark.

The Kickoff Classic is sponsored by the people at the Meadowlands (East Rutherford, N.J.). As far as I'm concerned they can play it anywhere they want and play anybody they want in it.

"We can't play in it. You can only be in it once every five years. I'm sure they'd like to have a national champion return, but if they've been there the previous five years, they can't."

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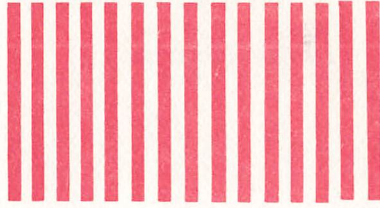
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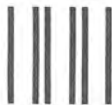
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A color photograph of a family of four relaxing on a patterned couch in a living room. A man and a woman are lying down, smiling, with their arms crossed. A young girl with glasses is leaning over them, also smiling. A young boy is sitting on the couch behind her, wearing a yellow shirt. Three balloons (yellow, red, and blue) are floating above them. In the background, a dog is visible on a staircase, and a clock is on the wall.

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